

THE DEFENDER

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ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE, COLCHESTER, VT.

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Fists, slurs thrown in 200s fight

By Nick Martin
Outdoors Editor

A fight beginning near the 200 townhouses, during which witnesses said they heard insulting racial comments, ended with two black men in police custody.

Five officers from Colchester, Winooski and Essex police departments responded to a fight near the 200s at 1:47 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 29.

Two men were taken into custody for being incapacitated from

alcohol, said Colchester Police Lt. Donald Allen. No criminal charges were filed. Police were called to the scene at the request of campus security officers.

Senior Ethan Bodin said he was in Townhouse 203 when he noticed a large crowd near Canterbury Hall at about midnight. Director of Security Peter Soons estimated from security reports that the crowd numbered in the hundreds.

Bodin went outside and saw Mike Perez, a black non-student,

with his shirt off. Perez's friends held him back from a crowd of St. Michael's students.

Perez, a 2002 graduate of Spaulding High School in Barre, said he and his brother were attending a party on campus Saturday night with two other friends.

"My little brother told me someone punched him," Mike Perez said. "I was having a real good time until I found out someone was trying to hurt my brother.

"There were over 10 people

trying to fight us, and more just standing around running their mouths."

Half a dozen witnesses said members of the men's hockey team were involved in the altercation, but would not identify them. The witnesses did not distinguish between varsity and junior varsity players.

Senior hockey captains Alex Watts and Jon Perez (not related to Mike Perez) live in Townhouse 206,

See FIGHT, Page 2

Interior locks not allowed

By Nick Martin
Outdoors Editor

Students returning from winter break were asked to remove unapproved locks on townhouse bedrooms. In some cases residence life staff removed doorknobs to gain access to locked rooms, Director of Residence Life Lou Dimasi said. Installing a locking knob without the approval of residence life is against school policy.

Earlier this semester, Stephen Theoharides sent an e-mail to the junior and senior classes pleading for the safe return of his bottle of Jack Daniels. Theoharides said in the e-mail his bottle was stolen from his townhouse during a party.

"Living in places with common areas adds a whole new dimension than living in a dorm room," Theoharides said. "Locks would provide an easy and effective solution."

The reason St. Michael's does not provide each bedroom with a locking door is mostly due to budget restrictions said Dave Cutler, physical plant director.

"I wish all the bedrooms had locks on them, but as of now I don't have the resources for that kind of

large scale replacement," Cutler said.

Cutler said it is important for students not to install locks for their own safety. The college would not have a duplicate key of a personally installed lock and would not be able to gain access to the room in the case of an emergency.

Seniors Colleen Catalano and Ryan Delurey are residents of the 300s townhouses. They said it would be worth the college's money to invest in locking doors.

"I think with all the thefts that go on in the campus, it would be worth it to put locks on all the

doors," Catalano said. "We get e-mails every weekend about things taken from townhouses."

Catalano and Delurey said they installed locking doorknobs on their townhouse bedrooms at the beginning of the year. They said they have not been notified to remove the locks. However, items in the common area of their townhouse have still been stolen.

"If I'm going away for the weekend and my roommates are having people over, I lock my door," Delurey said. "Other times you just want some privacy."

DiMasi said students are re-

sponsible for keeping track of people they let into their townhouse.

"If you are having a party in your townhouse, you are supposed to know who is going to be there," DiMasi said.

The college does not feel it is necessary to provide locking bedroom doors in the townhouses because the residents chose their roommates, DiMasi said. He said the college may be willing to install locks on an individual basis if a student feels unsafe.

See 300s, Page 5



Photo by Michael DeGrandpre

(From left) Seniors Jeff Wall, Stephen Theoharides and Patrick Scheld mourn the loss of their stolen Jack Daniels.

S.A. gives away \$12,000 in two weeks

By Matt Ryan
Executive Editor

The Student Association gave out over \$12,000 in its first two meetings of the semester, \$7,000 of which went to relief for Hurricane Katrina on Jan. 24.

The men's rugby team received \$3,000 and Green Up SMC received \$2,070 on Jan. 31. After the meeting, \$6,651.21 remained in the S.A. reserve.

"I'm very surprised that the S.A. gave out \$12,000 in two weeks," vice president of the 2006 class Ryan Woods said. "It hasn't been done before as far as I know."

The first meeting heard testimonies from Woods and Meagg Blair, the president of the 2006 class, who recently returned from a MOVE service trip to New Orleans. They said although the flood had subsided, the city was still in ruins. The vote to give \$7,000 was unanimous.

"It needed to happen, if we can afford to go to school here we can afford to give this money to the relief effort," representative of the women's rugby club Sara McLaughlin said.

See S.A., Page 2



Photo by Jen Kerns

(From left) Sophomores Conor Driscoll and Chris Carballeira, junior Rachel Gallien and sophomore Colin Boyd march for Green Up SMC.

News

SECURITY LOG

Excerpts from the January 16 - February 2, 2006, security reports, courtesy of St. Michael's College Office of Safety and Security

Monday, January 16

2:51 a.m. Suspicious Person at Canterbury
3:26 a.m. Police assist civil at Ross
5:01 a.m. Vandalism at Jean Marie

Thursday, January 19

1:02 a.m. Fire alarm at Ryan Hall
1:52 a.m. Odor complaint at Ryan Hall
11:35 a.m. Medical assist at Lyons Hall
1:04 p.m. Parking complaint Cashman
8:11 p.m. Fire alarm at Pontigny Hall
11:15 p.m. Suspicious person at Founders Hall

Friday, January 20

12:09 a.m. Odor complaint at Alumni Hall
3:20 a.m. Harassment at Alumni Hall
6:02 a.m. 911 Hang-up at Purtill Hall
3:10 p.m. Medical assist at health services
11:31 p.m. Mischief at Hamel Hall

Saturday, January 21

1:23 a.m. Mischief at Canterbury Hall
4:04 a.m. Fight at TH 400s
3:10 p.m. Trespass at TH 100s
11:29 p.m. 911 Hang up at Linnehan Hall

Sunday, January 22

2:09 a.m. Unlawful entry at Hamel
3:55 a.m. Vandalism at Linnehan

Monday, January 23

12:04 a.m. Trespass at Lyons Hall
5:10 a.m. Police assist civil at Alumni Hall
8:45 p.m. Medical assist at Lyons Hall

Tuesday, January 24

2:15 a.m. Suspicious person at Rt. 15
7:30 a.m. Towed vehicle at Ryan Hall
7:51 a.m. Parking violation at Hoehl/Ryan Hall

Wednesday, January 25

2:23 a.m. Medical assist at Joyce Hall

Thursday, January 26

10:08 a.m. Motor vehicle accident at North Campus

Friday, January 27

12:27 a.m. Alcohol violation at Ryan Hall
1:33 a.m. Noise complaint at Hodson Hall
2:12 a.m. Disorderly conduct at Hamel Hall

2:21 a.m. Alcohol violation at Hamel Hall
11:00 p.m. Alcohol violation at Alumni Hall

Saturday, January 28

1:42 a.m. Drunkenness at Alumni Hall
3:10 a.m. Mischief at Ryan Hall
5:57 a.m. Vandalism at Joyce Hall

Sunday, January 29

1:36 a.m. Fight at Canterbury Hall
2:27 a.m. Larceny/theft at TH 200s
11:59 a.m. Animal complaint at Hamel Hall
3:09 p.m. Nuisance complaint at Linnehan Hall

Monday, January 30

8:51 a.m. Vandalism at Hamel

Wednesday, February 1

2:55 a.m. Medical assist at TH 300s
11:38 p.m. Nuisance complaint at Joyce Hall

Thursday, February 2

2:16 a.m. Suspicious person at Campus Rd.
9:19 p.m. Fire on college property across Rt. 15

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S.A.: Men's Rugby and Green Up SMC allotted funds

Continued from Page 1

In a letter to the editor of the Defender last semester, McLaughlin wrote that the S.A. was "selfish" for not giving any money to Katrina relief.

S.A. President Tyrone Walker said that at the beginning of every academic year, one percent of the S.A.'s reserve goes toward a charity, and that this year, by majority vote, it went to the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program in an effort to help the local community.

At the second meeting, the S.A. unanimously approved giving the Men's Rugby Club \$3000. The club estimated tournament costs to be anywhere from \$2000 to \$2500 apiece, and planned to play in three this semester.

Although allotted \$13,187 at the beginning of last semester, the club had to spend money it had saved for this semester after making the playoffs.

"We can't punish a team for

making the playoffs," Woods said.

Woods, however, voted against giving Green Up SMC \$2,070. The vote passed with 35 in favor and 11 opposed.

"It's one of the few clubs that goes above and beyond," Woods said of the club. "But they were asking for a lot of money."

Woods suggested giving the club between \$1,000 and \$1,500, and having it fundraise for more money. Both clubs agreed to fundraise and give any extra raised money back to the SA.

Green Up SMC planned a \$900 trip to Yale for a climate conference. The trip's cost was figured so about 30 students could attend freely, though some MOVE conferences charge students \$275 to attend, Woods said.

"We really needed a jump start because we're a new and ambitious club," Jen Kerns said, a member of the club. "We're trying to get as many people on board as possible, and sometimes a cost for a trip will deter people."

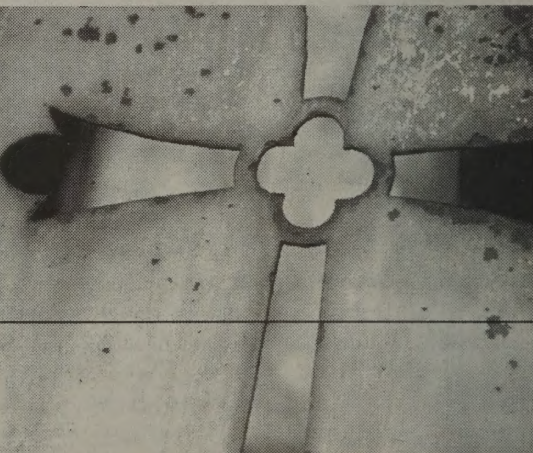


Photo courtesy of Rob Outtrim

The men's rugby club in action.

Walker said he hopes the semester. At this rate, it might S.A. will "spend every penny" in be spent before the end of the its reserve before the end of the month.

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On the Path to Wilderness Protection

The Great Old Broads for Wilderness explore the spectacular backcountry of Utah the old-fashioned way - one step at a time. "We're a bunch of little old grandmas who have no trouble getting into the wilderness on our own two feet," they say.

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NEWS

Robert's Fools

S.A. amends Constitution after Christmas light folly

By Matt Ryan
News Editor

At the final Student Association meeting of last semester, junior Jake Dubuque, 400s representative, motioned to adopt a resolution that the S.A. promote students hanging Christmas lights on campus responsibly. The debate that followed moved from the possible hazards of to the wattage used by Christmas lights. The motion was put to a vote.

Sixteen in favor, 19 opposed, 13 abstain. Motion passes.

Wait, what?

On Jan. 24, S.A. President Tyrone Walker announced a resolution to do away with the voting formula that led to this decision. The S.A. began using the formula, (Yes votes plus [No votes minus abstentions]) last semester. The formula prevents senators from casting neutral votes.

The Christmas light vote was the first and only decided by abstentions, Walker said. Since the resolution, abstentions no longer affect the vote.

Immediately after the Dec. 6 meeting Walker revisited Robert's Rules, a guidebook on how to conduct assemblies used across the country from town meetings to Congress.

Henry Martyn Robert published the "Pocket Manual of Rules of Order for Deliberative Assemblies" in 1876, a revision of which appeared in 1915 as "Robert's Rules of Order Revised."

"The meeting wasn't the time to revisit the standards," Walker said. "I was concerned after the meeting because it was clear that there were more no votes than yes votes and the motion passed."

Provost William Wilson was consulted because he oversees town meetings and the Faculty Assembly on campus.

"It flies in the face of common sense," Wilson said of the decision. "The moderator of the meeting should make sure the will of the assembly prevails."

"It's difficult, though, to run a meeting and be on top of the rules."

According to Wilson, a parliamentarian is usually responsible for interpreting Robert's Rules for the assembly's moderator. For the S.A., that interpreter was junior Greg Tobey, the secretary of Student Policy.

"I wanted Greg to clear up any ambiguity in the S.A. Constitution," Walker said. "In years past, some senators thought the senator's job wasn't to come to meetings and abstain

Robert's Rules

Chapter XII: Voting

S.43: Bases for determining a voting result

► (p. 395) ...the term majority vote is used without qualification - as in the case of the basic requirement, it means more than half of the votes cast by persons legally entitled to vote - excluding blanks and abstentions at a properly called meeting...

► (p.396) ...voting results based on the number of members present - a majority of those present, two thirds of those present, etc. - while possible are undesirable since an abstention in such cases has the same effect as a negative vote, these bases deny members the right to maintain a neutral position by abstaining.

From "The Scott Foresman Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised," 1990. 9th edition.

on votes."

The S.A. has had a history of not knowing how to count abstentions, Walker said.

Tobey agreed and went online sometime before last semester to find a formula in Robert's Rules on how to count abstentions. Tobey did not provide the Web site from which he got the formula.

According to "The Scott Foresman Robert's Rules of Order," found on the reference shelf at the Durick Library, simple majority and two-thirds majority votes should exclude abstentions.

"We had misinterpreted counting abstentions because you don't count abstentions," Tobey said. "Honestly, it didn't occur to me at the time that we were depriving (the senator) the right to remain neutral."

No S.A. senator openly challenged the formula until the December meeting, said Ryan Woods, vice president of the Class of 2006.

"I didn't say anything," Woods said, though the formula was new to the voting process. "I figured we had done it wrong before."

After the December meeting there was an "outburst" of confusion among the senators, Woods said.

"I don't think too many people read the S.A. handbook cover to cover," said Women's Rugby representative Sara McLaughlin. "I thought a mistake had been made, but it's OK now."

From Durick to Dupont

Library funds are low, but help is on the way

By Mike Morris
Staff Writer

The Durick Library is one of the lowest funded libraries among Phi Beta Kappa colleges in the country according to sophomore Michelle Kayser, a student member of the Faculty Library Committee.

Because St. Michael's is a small institution, cannot compare its funding to larger universities that are Phi Beta Kappa members, the college will not even meet its own funding goals for the library, Kayser said.

St. Michael's library materials expenditures rank 13th in a comparative study of 15 peer institutions conducted by the Library Committee. Peer institutions were chosen by factors such as average SAT scores, student populations, level of academic difficulty, and other relevant factors, Kayser said.

In response, the board of trustees recently passed a materials budget increase of 6.3 percent, the current rate of inflation for library materials, plus an additional \$15,000 to help bring the library back toward its funding goals.

"This is a good thing for us to maintain what we have been doing with the collection," said Steve Burks, a member of the library's Interim Management Team and the Library Committee.

However, the money goes only toward the materials budget, which pays for books, journal and electronic database subscriptions, and other material library expenses, he said.

The budget increase was passed because of previous library budget shortcomings, which did not meet the College's LIS Vision 2010 plan, or even keep up with the current rate of inflation, Kayser said.

The FY 2006 materials budget of \$541,587 falls \$80,735 short of the money needed to follow the college's plan to reach \$1,055,794 in 2010. This new budget would put St. Michael's in the 60th percentile of the schools studied (No. 7 on the chart).

Bloom papers hit snag

However, the library's future is far from bleak. In 2003,

Selected peer libraries FY 2004	Total materials	Phi Beta Kappa
St. Lawrence University	\$1,175,000	Yes
Ithaca College	1,173,964	No
Fairfield University	1,105,000	Yes
Skidmore College	1,080,782	Yes
Providence College	1,072,336	No
Quinnipiac University	782,265	No
Le Moyne College	611,383	No
Hobart & William Smith Colleges	600,554	Yes
Siena College	577,732	No
Marist College	544,685	No
Stonehill College	501,770	No
St. Anselm College	477,300	No
St. Michael's College	473,954	Yes
Assumption College	449,015	No
Merrimack College	393,352	No

an anonymous alumnus donated \$5 million for the construction of a major addition to the library, and renowned literary critic and Yale professor Harold Bloom announced his plans to donate his personal library to the college. While the anonymous donor has fallen behind his personal schedule for donations, Anne Hansen, vice president of Institutional Advancement, said he is well within St. Michael's guidelines for gift giving, which allow five years for payment after a pledge. This schedule happens to work within Bloom's time frame for the library donation, which will come over time. Bloom is still teaching and using his collection, she said.

The building's design was still a work in progress.

"Indeed, the board has not yet authorized the president to engage an architect for this purpose, so all of his private discussions with potential architects about design possibilities are merely conceptual at this point," Lisa Powlison, assistant to the president, wrote in an e-mail. "Substantive work on the design will not proceed until the pledge is fulfilled."

Hansen dispelled rumors that the project was stalled or likely to never to be completed. She emphasized that the process takes a long time, and the project is still running on schedule. "We're alive and well," she said.

New library director

The library will also be welcoming a new director to its staff beginning July 1, Burks said. John Payne, associate director of libraries at Furman University of

Greenville, S.C., will become St. Michael's library director.

Payne said he is "excited about joining the St. Michael's community" and wrote in an e-mail that he hopes the library "will be doing a lot of great things in the coming years."

This includes creating a comfortable, inviting physical environment, and providing the best resources and services possible.

The new library is still in the early planning stages, though it will most likely be built to the right of Durick Library, close to Lyons Hall, Hansen said. It will be known as the Dupont Library, in memory of Very Rev. Gerald D. Dupont, SSE Class of 1935 and St. Michael's president from 1958 to 1969. His name was chosen by the anonymous benefactor, who wanted to recognize the Edmundite heritage, she said.

The two libraries probably will be connected by a corridor that will enable Dupont Library to close after business hours, while the Durick Library will remain on its current schedule, Hansen said. The corridor will contain an art gallery with rotating exhibitions and some of Sen. Patrick Leahy's personal photographs, and a cafe.

The Dupont Library will contain a large reading room and "a large portion of the Bloom collection will be in circulation," which will entice students, Hanson said. The building also will contain a climate-controlled archive room to house delicate pieces from Bloom's collection and the existing St. Michael's archives.



Photo by Michael DeGrandpre

Durick Library is scheduled for a large addition to house the papers of scholar Harold Blume.

NEWS

Under Pressure

Study finds college students lack skills to handle the 'real world'

By Sara Randolph
News Editor

A new study has found that more than 75 percent of students at two-year colleges and more than 50 percent of students at four-year colleges lack the literacy skills needed to comprehend real-life tasks, ranging from understanding the arguments of newspaper editorials to comparing credit card offers and balancing a checkbook.

The survey was conducted by the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and sampled 1,827 graduating students from 80 randomly selected two-year and four-year public and private colleges and universities across the country. The selection of students was found to have only basic quantitative literacy skills. Basic skills are those needed to compare ticket prices or calculate the cost of a sandwich and a salad from a menu.

Other challenges include estimating if a car has enough gasoline to get to the next gas station, calculating the total cost of ordering office supplies, calculating tips, the ability to interpret a table about exercise and blood pressure, understanding job applications, payroll forms, maps, brochures, manuals, and food and drug labels. According to the study, the students did the worst on issues involving math.

On the upside, students have higher prose, document and quantitative literacy than previous graduates with similar levels of education, and have significantly higher literacy than the average literacy of adults across the nation. The average prose, document, and quantitative literacy is similar across most majors for students in 4-year colleges. Students may excel in academic literacy, but what about personal finance and real-life skills needed to survive after graduation? How do St. Michael's graduates fair?

"I couldn't believe what I was reading," St. Michael's alum Adam Lothrop, '05, said about the study. "Most people I know that have graduated have gone on to do rather well. I don't think anyone's lacking in any of those areas that I know of. St. Michael's has given us a very well rounded education."

"Schools don't teach you these skills unless you take a finance class," he said. "Unless you take the initiative to get a checking account and pay your bills, you just plain haven't learned it. Perhaps we are victims of circumstance." Lothrop is enrolled



Photo Illustration by Michael DeGrandpre

"Real-life skills are not what college is designed to teach. If you're smart enough to go to St. Michael's, you're smart enough to learn how to balance your checkbook and when it's important to you, you will."

Norman Walker

Associate professor, business administration and accounting

in University of Vermont's graduate school for biochemistry.

For Ian Fraser, '05, his transition into the "real world" has been smooth. Fraser lives in Colchester and works in accounting for Johnson Lambert & Co. He feels that not

enough young people realize the importance of saving money.

"We're very dependent on our parents," Fraser said, who considers himself an independent person. "Students are less likely to put effort into a class that's a requirement. If you're told you have to do something, you'd much rather be doing something else. Far too many people believe in personal liability rather than personal responsibility."

The results of the study were not surprising to Chris Clary, co-director of the Student Resource Center/Career Development. She feels confident that St. Michael's students do not struggle after graduation. "Our students historically do very well in gradu-

ate school and the work place and moving up to better jobs," she said. "Those kinds of literacy skills seem not to apply as much to our students when they go out into the workplace."

However, Clary said students were a lot more independent 10 years ago, and many don't know how to evaluate job offers or offers for a particular salary, in a particular city. "Depending on their lifestyle, students are overly optimistic about what they're going to do with all the money. That's more lifestyle literacy. There's a lack of awareness as to how many expenses they're going to have to deal with on their own," she said.

Clary believes life skills are not necessarily the responsibility

of college faculty. "I think parents and families have a responsibility to help their children fly on their own," she said. "Students should take initiative early on in their college careers or even their senior years and sit down and have conversations with their families, talk to alums, friends

or neighbors, and those who are in the process of that transition or have made that transition to get an idea of what to expect."

According to the study, the literacy skills of college students are directly related to the education of their parents: children whose parents graduated college or attended graduate school have higher literacy than students whose parents did not graduate high school or stopped after receiving a high school diploma or GED.

If the interest is there, Clary said they would consider having a life skills workshop similar to the interview and resume building workshops offered.

Associate Professor of

Business Administration and Accounting, Norman Walker said to some extent, living on a college campus limits students' amount of responsibility, which can then become a handicap in the future.

"Real-life skills are not what college is designed to teach," Walker said. "If you're smart enough to go to St. Michael's, you're smart enough to learn how to balance your checkbook and when it's important to you, you will. Students may take advantage of a resume or interview workshop but may not take advantage of a checkbook balancing workshop because that's not one of the things that they have to do right now. I think it would be an interesting experiment to make a workshop available."

Walker said students may not be motivated to take advantage of opportunities to learn such skills because they are not faced with the challenges yet. Although he teaches Financial Policies, Walker said Foundations in Business would be the best choice for learning how to budget from the perspective of a business, but it can be indirectly applied to the individual as well.

The literacy level is much higher among students whose coursework places a strong emphasis on applying theories or concepts to practical problems, in comparison to students whose coursework rarely touch on these skills.

Senior Robyn Bratica believes it has become acceptable for our generation to carry on with little knowledge about real-life skills because of the resources we have available to us.

"We live in a very technologically advanced world," she said. "People don't need to know how to balance a checkbook. You can use your debit card then check your bank statement each month for the balance. And restaurant tips? Most cell phones figure that out for you. Skills like basic arithmetic are getting lost in our generation because of our reliance on technology. It's sad really, but it's just how it is and it will get worse as technology advances."

Bratica is ready for the "real world" and can handle the literacy skills identified as difficult by the study, but said finding a place to live is what worries her. "I've never had to compare rent rates or prices of utilities. I have no idea how to do it, and I'm pretty scared." Her plan is to attend law school in Boston after graduation.

According to the study, there are no significant differences in the literacy of students graduating from public and private institutions. There are no differences between part-time and full-time students. No overall relationship exists between literacy and the length of time it takes to earn a degree, or between literacy and an academic major.

NEWS

MOVE looks to raise money for India trip



Photo provided by Erin Collins

Senior Erin Collins spends time helping children at Brother Xavier's New Hope and New Life in Calcutta, India. A group is traveling to Calcutta in May for three weeks. The group will be fund-raising at the International Coffee Hour by selling Valentine's Day gifts and Indian tapestries.

300s: Lockout

Continued from Page 1

Catalano said locking her door puts her at ease. "If someone goes upstairs, you don't say anything because that's where the bathroom is," Catalano said. "There is no way to know what they are actually doing up there — unless you check on everyone."

"We trust each other, but we don't trust other people who are coming in our house."

Chris Rockwood said he would like the townhouse bedrooms to have locking doors, but stopped short of installing one himself. "I thought about putting a lock on, but I didn't want to spend the money," Rockwood said.

Residence life and physical plant inspect all housing on campus during Christmas break. Thermostats are adjusted to save energy and rooms are inspected for fire hazards DiMasi said.

"When we come across a room that has a lock on it we will send a letter or call the townhouse telling them that the lock they have is inappropriate and it needs to be removed," DiMasi said. "But we're not going to go back there and ensure that has happened until the end of the year."

FIGHT: Fists, racial epithets thrown in campus brawl

Continued from Page 1

where witnesses said the fight started. Watts and Jon Perez refused to comment.

Junior Jared Silver, a varsity hockey player, said he was at the party when the non-students arrived. Silver said he was not aware of anyone who knew the black men. He said they were asked to leave the party, but stayed.

"I don't know how the fight began," Silver said, "but I know it wasn't a race issue."

Soons said he did not know the names of any St. Michael's students involved in the fight.

"No one came forward from the St. Mike's community to identify who was involved," Soons said.

Senior Michael Scanlon, the apartment community advisor on duty in the 200s that night, said he called security over his radio when he saw Mike Perez and the crowd near Canterbury, but did not recall the exact time.

"It seemed like it took a long time for security to show up after I called," Scanlon said.

Soons said his radio log should include Scanlon's call, but would not release the information. "I could go back and look at the radio logs, but that is not part of the public record," Soons said.

At 1:36 a.m. security received a call about a fight from the emergency phone outside Canterbury. Three security officers were on

the scene by 1:38 a.m., Soons said.

Bodin was trying to keep the two groups away from each other when security arrived.

"I wasn't impressed with how security handled the situation at all," Bodin said. "They didn't really do anything for a while."

"I walked up and set myself in the middle of the fight and started telling people to cool off and go home," Bodin said. "Some people listened and some didn't."

When security intervened, they removed Mike Perez and began talking to him in the Canterbury parking lot.

Soons said that when security was talking with Perez, it may have appeared that the officers were standing away from the fight.

"From an officer safety stand point, you are not going to go into the middle of a crowd of a couple hundred people with three officers," Soons said.

Mike Perez initially identified himself as a St. Michael's student, Soons said.

The rest of the crowd then moved from Canterbury to the 200s. Once beyond the sight of the security officers, the fight started again, Bodin said.

Several witnesses reported hearing racial slurs. Mike Perez, his brother and one of the two friends, they were visiting with are black.

Senior Adena Harford, who

lives in the 200s, said she heard white St. Michael's students shouting "nigger" at the black men.

Scanlon said he thought the black men were using this term.

Bodin said he was too busy trying to break up the fight to hear what was being said.

"There were a few kids from St. Mike's who were trying to help out," Bodin said, "but for the most part I wasn't impressed by the crowds who weren't doing anything to help the situation."

"I tried to get the kids who didn't go to school here out of the situation and get the people from St. Mike's to leave them alone."

Bodin said he managed to help Jesse Perez and his two friends leave the area. As they were walking away, Bodin said he noticed security had let Mike Perez go. Mike Perez made his way back into the crowd near the 200s.

Soons said Mike Perez was released because when security officers arrived they did not witness any violent confrontation between him and the St. Michael's students.

"In the meantime," Bodin said, "I was trying to deal with St. Mike's meatheads who were shouting stuff. They were trying to start the fight back up."

Mike Perez was finally convinced to leave the area and began to walk away. As the group of non-students was leaving, one

of them mentioned the word gun.

"I don't think they were serious," Bodin said, "but I heard them talking about getting a gun."

Security heard this exchange and stopped them. Security told the men they could no longer leave because they had mentioned a gun.

Mike Perez said he and his brother signed papers with campus security agreeing to not return to campus.

Soons confirmed that two non-students had signed the papers.

On Jan. 4, 2004 the hockey

team was involved in an altercation with another visiting black man. Michael Vaz, then a 19-year-old UMASS-Amherst student, was arrested for simple assault after a fight with hockey players in Ryan Hall.

One St. Michael's basketball player who was involved in the fight did not appear in the next three games. Seven hockey players were suspended after the altercation.

Additional reporting by Andrea Lissor and Matt Ryan

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OPINION

Editorial

Broke bringing books back ... mountain

Do you ever wake up in the morning and head to the bathroom only to find George Foreman, in his prime, standing where your toothbrush used to be and mean George, taking exception to your look of shock and horror, pummels your face, neck, stomach and kidneys with anvil fists atop tree-trunk arms before launching you through a window that Residence Life will charge you \$200 to replace into a snow drift of cold and pain?

Me neither, but that's the closest I can come to describing the feeling I get whenever I try to buy or return books at the school bookstore.

At a time when tuition is will rise 6.5 percent and Congress has cut \$12.7 billion in federal student loan programs, I try to cut costs when possible, which means PBR for the weekends and no movies in the theater until directors stop remaking King Kong.

I'm tired of buying pointless new editions and paying \$100 for a book, getting excited when I return it for \$20 and watching it get resold for nearly another \$100. And that's on the off chance that the bookstore accepts my books.

So I've got some ideas, and I don't mean online buying.

Some students, particularly you unfortunate science majors, are paying more than \$600 for books a semester. That's too much.

Why not put a cap on the amount of money professors can charge their students for books? Professors might think twice about requiring a \$50 book with only one chapter relevant to the course.

How about, instead of the book buyback system, we do what I did from elementary to high school?

At the public schools I attended, older editions of books stayed in circulation longer. We'd have books from the 1980s in high school, which was not only cheaper but cooler because you could find, from the dates students were issued the books listed on the inside covers, how old the guy on the football team with the mustache really was.

At St. Michael's we're lucky to have a book survive a full academic year. Why should we make it easier to demand new books from college students than from taxpayers?

New editions for books are often old editions with say, a new introduction. I mean, how many editions of Plato's Republic do we really need?

Why don't we keep the old editions until they are destroyed or become irrelevant, and give them out every semester to new students for collateral to be exchanged at the end of the semester? Reselling the same book without properly compensating the student is an unfair source of profit for the school.

If we act soon, we'll have enough time before the next book buyback session to make some changes, save some money and get me back to the movies.

Matt Ryan, co-executive editor

Letters to the editor

What's your view?

Send a letter of 500 words or less to the editor on any subject related to St. Michael's College by e-mail at defender@smcvt.edu.

Hope to hear from you soon.

DEFENDER

MISSION
STATEMENT

As the editorial staff of The Defender, the student-run newspaper of St. Michael's College, we strive to accurately, professionally and ethically report the news affecting the lives of students and the community.

The Defender is a designated public forum. Student editors make all content decisions. We believe in the freedom of expression. We encourage our readers to express their views at any time.

The Defender publishes letters to the editor in response to articles that we have printed in the paper and issues on campus. The Defender does not publish anonymous letters. Letters will be edited only for grammar, spelling, good taste, and sometimes length.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK |

'A Woman, Ain't I?'



Photo by Emily Rand

Actor Kathryn Woods portrays Sojourner Truth during a Martin Luther King Day celebration on Jan. 23, in the St. Michael's College Chapel. The event kicks off February's celebration of Black History Month.

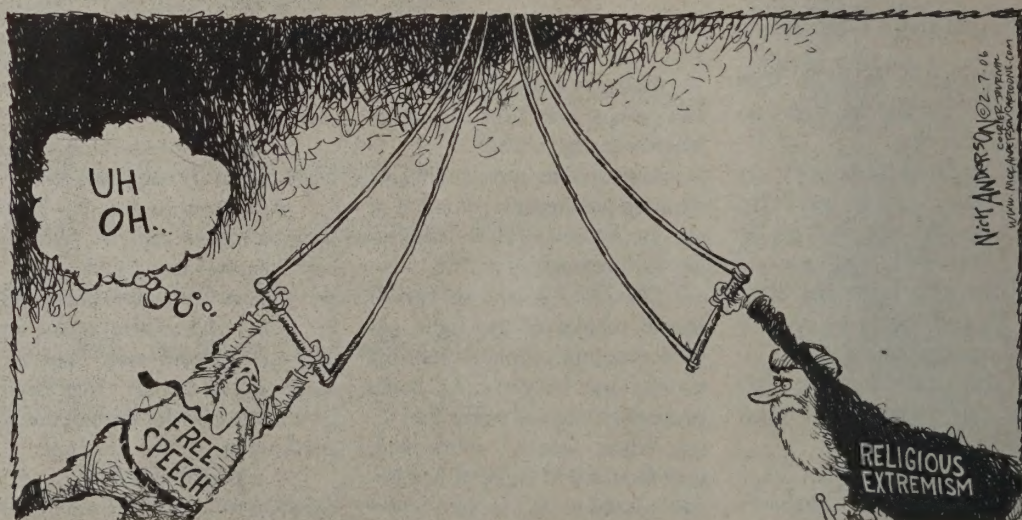
A great big thank you

This is a great big thank you to everyone who participated in the December Adopt a Family project. Though we did get a late start, we still had many groups ready and eager to help a family out this Christmas. By our deadline, we helped provide Christmas to over 20 families, many with five or more children. We also donated \$130, all of which was collected in Alliot during the course of one day! Student, faculty and staff donations combined was proof of just how generous a community we are. The delivery of the bags and bags of gifts we gave

made the Channel 3 news. In such a short time, we did a whole lot for many local families. Our givings were a huge part of the Adopt A Family project this year and really helped the Howard Center have a successful project. I want everyone to know how very important their contributions were.

God bless our awesome community.

Sincerely,
Jordan Smith, '06



FEATURES

From pixels to pizza, Gerry Danforth does it all!

By Michael Langenmayr
Features Editor

How long have you been working at St. Mike's?
Going on 11 years.

And what did you do before coming here?
I retired from IBM. I worked at IBM for 12 ½ years, I retired in 1995.

You have a big fan club here at St. Mike's.
Well, thanks, I love them, too. I love the students.

In fact, the Student Association gave you an award.
It was overwhelming. I wasn't even here to receive it. I was in

Mike's People

Shining the spotlight on
St. Michael's unsung heroes

California, but I heard about it in New York City. A professor got on the plane and told me that I'd won an award. I didn't know nothing about it until I came to an alumni dinner thing. So, I got it in September. I was just overwhelmed.

I've heard that you've let students go over to your house before to watch --
Yes, I had 10 of the boys that graduated in 2004 to come up and

watch the Yankees and the Red Sox. I'm a die-hard Red Sox fan and they didn't have NESN here at the time so I invited them up.

What about your family life? Do you have children?

I have three grown daughters. One is in California and I have a 14-year-old granddaughter that she home schools. I got a daughter here that work down on Shelburne Road and my other daughter is in Essex. And that's it, I have the three daughters.

Are you still married?

No, I'm divorced. I came down here because I needed to work part-time, and I just don't know how to describe how much I care, and I know they care for me. To

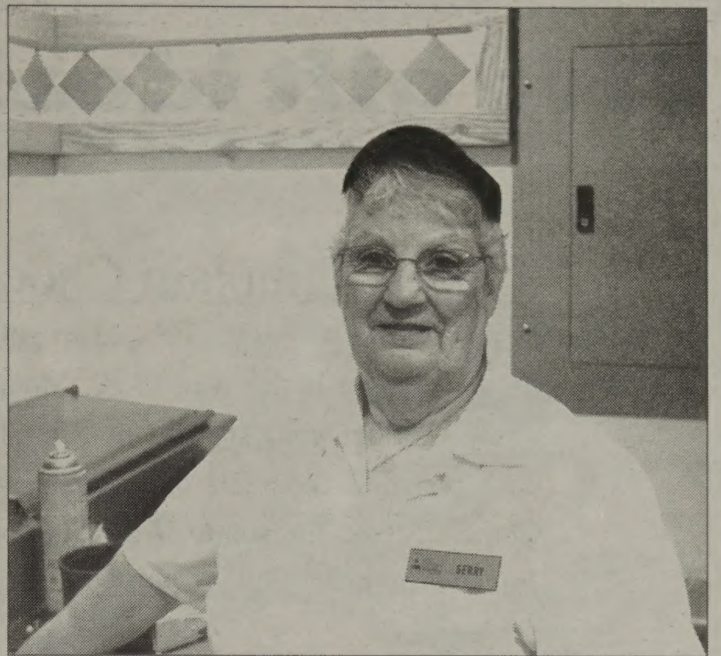


Photo by Michael DeGrandpre

Gerry Danforth works in the Green Mountain Dining Room in Alliot Hall.

me, that's the important thing. I always felt that I have to give to people. I'm a very loving person

and they're returning their love to me. And that's why I've been here so many years.

MOVE helps heal hearts and homes in New Orleans

Students and faculty lend hand in Gulf Coast disaster relief effort; shocked by catastrophic scene

By Kim Bookless
Staff Writer

Blue tarps flap in the wind, covering gaping holes in family homes. Trees lie where they fell. Murky, stagnant water has gathered in foul pools along the highway and neighborhoods. A rusted stretcher sits abandoned on the side of the road.

It has been months since Hurricane Katrina and still this city bears the mark of an angry atmosphere. It will take years to restore New Orleans.

Eleven St. Michael's students and one adviser gave New Orleans residents some much-needed aid. On Jan. 7, they spent the last week of their winter break helping clean up the neighborhoods of New Orleans.

Junior Gatien Gaujac was one of the students who went on this service trip. Gaujac had a special tie to New Orleans: last summer, while working at his parents' restaurant, he waited on a couple from New Orleans. Impressed with his friendly demeanor or they offered to let him use their house for spring break. When Hurricane Katrina devastated the area, Gaujac knew he had to do something.

"I organized a couple of non-denominational prayer groups and a candlelight vigil," Gaujac said. "We held posters with victims' names and handed candles to people who stopped to look. The president and his wife showed up."

Gaujac also participated in the Walk for Katrina in the Ross Sports Center. Then he heard of a service trip to New Orleans. Jason Moore, assistant director of Mobilization of Volunteer Efforts (MOVE), said that after the hurricane struck, he and six others met to discuss what needed to be done. They felt compelled to do something.

Gaujac attended meetings to learn about various extended service trips and was accepted to the New Orleans service team.

The students were unsure what they would do when



Sophomore Kate Schnurr (left) and senior Meagan Newland (right) help repair a home damaged by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

they arrived. To prepare for what they could encounter, the group attended three informational meetings. They met with faculty advisor Ann Giombetti, and had meetings with the Red Cross and disaster relief, Gaujac said. The students were told they would need to wear a respirator. They could either buy one, which many students did, or they would be supplied in New Orleans.

The students and faculty adviser, Giombetti, stayed at an orphanage run by Catholic Charities USA. Gaujac said their week was spent stripping and bleaching hous-

es. Then the floors, ceilings and walls had to be ripped out because black mold had grown everywhere. Gaujac says one of the things that struck him most was a house they encountered toward the end of their week.

"Everything was still there," Gaujac said. "It looked like they stepped out for groceries."

Gaujac said an old woman who lived there had to go to the hospital a few days before people were evacuated. Her husband returned, but only had time to cover a few pieces of furniture with plastic. The day was tiring mentally, physically and emotionally, Gaujac said.

On Jan. 24, Ryan Woods, the service trip's team leader, and senior Meagan Blair, who also went on the trip, went before the Student Association (S.A.) to ask that more money to be donated to the Edmundite Campus Ministry Katrina Relief Fund. A discussion to donate money at the end of last semester had been tabled. At this meeting the tabled discussion rose again. By the end of the meeting, the S.A. motioned to donate \$7,000 to the relief fund and bring up the issue again at the end of the semester.

Woods said MOVE completed work on three houses and started on one before realizing it was structurally unsound.

Blair said what stood out most to her was the hope and positive attitude of the people they met, even though they had lost everything.

"They had clothes and food but no homes," Woods said.

"They were still in good spirits."

St. Michael's has been aiding Hurricane Katrina victims since the storm. Rev. Brian Cummings announced the launch of the Edmundite Campus Ministry Katrina Relief Fund on Sept. 9. At the end of January the fund had about \$181,000. With the addition of the \$7,000 from the S.A., that number should rise close to \$188,000.

Photo by Kristen Totten-Greenwood

FEATURES

Five gift ideas for Valentine's Day

Lake Champlain Chocolates

If you like to wait until Feb. 13 to get your gift, then chocolate is the way to go. Make sure you know whether your significant other likes milk, dark or white chocolate and then head down to Church Street for some “fresh all-natural gifts from Vermont.”

For those with a sweet tooth: Lake Champlain Chocolates may be beyond your budget, so head down to the MOVE office and pocket a handful of Hershey's Kisses while no one's around.

Vermont Teddy Bear

Admit it, these little guys are cute. They make the perfect gift for pretty much anyone, but with many special Valentine's Day bears carrying price tags of \$70 or more, you may want to figure out whether this is “love” or “like” before making the investment.

Bear this in mind: If it does turn out to be a “like” sort of thing, there's always the claw machine outside of Friendly's. Price: 50 cent a play. The joy of actually winning on the first try: priceless.

A Dozen Roses

Let's face it, you're not going to go wrong with roses, but remember that color counts! Red is for love and romance, white is for innocence, pink is for grace, orange is for passion, and yellow with red tips means young love. Avoid solid yellow, though, that symbolizes friendship. Unless, of course, you just want to be friends.

For those who've run out of Allegra: While no other flower is quite as romantic as the rose, a little bit of tissue paper, scissors and some pipe cleaners and you've got yourself the beginnings of some great paper flowers. Nothing says “Happy Valentine's Day” like arts and crafts!

Dinner for Two Nicco's Cucina

If you're looking for a romantic night out, then this Italian eatery in Williston has some of the best dishes in the Burlington area. Be sure to call ahead as Nicco's is a hot spot for people of all ages and will be especially busy come Valentine's Day.

Can't afford the tip? There's always Chez Alliot with its oh-so-romantic tables-for-two toward the front, which are conveniently close to the kitchen, so you can grab your sweetie whatever he or she wants without having to walk the length of the cafeteria.

Guaranteed
to make your
lover swoon

A Romantic Movie 'Brokeback Mountain'

If your love is a like a “force of nature,” then “Brokeback Mountain” is the movie for you. If you're worried that a “gay cowboy” film is not for you, don't fret, the sex scenes are don't-blink-or-you'll-miss-it short. Besides, having dominated critics' lists and award shows for months, it can't be all that bad. With ticket prices at some theaters reaching \$10, be sure to bring your Knight Card and hope that there's a student discount.

Can't stand the guy behind you kicking the back of your chair? If you're still strapped for cash, grab the remote and tune in to Channel 11 for the movie of the week.

FEATURES

Campus

SPEAKS

If you could put any saying on a candy heart, what would it be?



"Stay away from me."

TJ Coolidge, class of '08



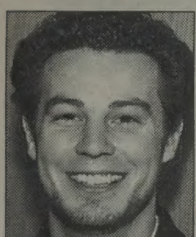
"Too bad, you're not mine."

Ashley Jones, prospective student



"Paz. It's 'peace' in Spanish."

Kate Powers, class of '06

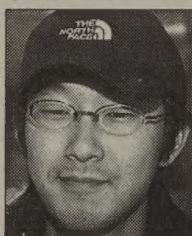


"Chuck Norris rocks!"

Mark Preston, class of '00

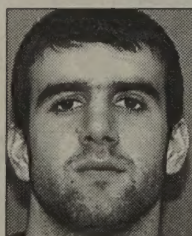
"We don't have this custom in my country."

Komo Akar, SIS, Japan



"Forgive me."

V. Kostakis, class of '09



"Dag, yo.' It's up and coming."

Sheila Regan, class of '07



"I wish I was high right now."

Arthur Miller, class of '07



Photo by Michael DeGrandpre

Sophomores Amy Sweetser (left), Maribeth Fonda (center) and Anna Messenger eat dinner in the Green Mountain Dining Room.

Table for Two?

Valentine's Day is not just a couple's holiday

By Arly Scully
Columns & Calendar Editor

Valentine's Day has long been advertised as a holiday for couples. Dinner for two, teddy bears with magnetic noses that "lock lips," flowers FedExed across the world, and if you're lucky, a sparkler from Tiffany's. On Feb. 14, if you're not seeing double, you're in trouble.

But many people aren't in relationships, by circumstance or choice. So does that mean they must curl up, watch "The Notebook," and cry, clutching the teddy bears their mothers sent them out of pure pity?

"Clearly not!" said Sarah Mistretta, a senior who has always regarded Valentine's Day as a day when it's fun to do your own thing, boyfriend or not.

Mistretta said her mother always gave her little presents, such as cards and candy on Feb. 14. She also encouraged her to wear red every Valentine's Day. It became

a day about fun, not one that stressed having a boyfriend.

Tara Murphy, Mistretta's roommate, has a similar perspective on the holiday. When Murphy was young, her family had a negative experience on Valentine's Day when her father left home. As a result, her mother tried to make the day more of a family-based holiday on which they showed their appreciation for each other. It's never been a couples-only day in her eyes.

For the second year in a row, Murphy and Mistretta will join several of their friends for a girl's night out. They're continuing a tradition started last year with a group date to Chili's and the Drew Barrymore/Jimmy Fallon film, "Fever Pitch." This year they plan to go to dinner at Nicco's Cucina in Williston. Afterwards, they'll catch a movie next door at the Majestic 10.

Murphy and her friends say Valentine's Day is just a day to do whatever you want. "I just really like any excuse to go out, not going to lie," Mistretta said with a shrug.

Junior Allan Smith has different plans for Feb. 14. "I'll troll around campus looking for forbidden pleasure," he said.

Ladies, look out.

Smith doesn't think being single on a couple's

holiday is a bad thing. "It leaves me free for more options," he said with a suggestive twinkle in his eyes. He also said that in the cold winter months, having a holiday on which you can make other people feel appreciated is something to celebrate.

But some people just can't handle being single on the most romantic day of the year. Lauren Remmes, a junior, recounted one negative experience she had on Valentine's Day.

On the day made for love, Remmes realized her relationship just wasn't working out. So she decided to break it off with her boyfriend, Chris Stockele. She returned the present he had given her, a \$60 silver heart necklace from Filene's. The necklace was still nestled safely in its blue box when Remmes told her boyfriend it was over.

"He buried it in his back yard," Remmes said. She can only assume the Stockele house is the last resting place of the testament to their love. Does she think he ever got over his broken heart? "Well, we were only in the sixth grade," Remmes said. There is hope for broken hearts after all.

John Flanagan, a sophomore, won't be shopping for necklaces on Valentine's Day.

"Dave and I will go down to Muddy Waters," Flanagan said. "I'll get organic coffee — I know Dave likes the lighter brew — and we'll read Dostoevsky until the cows come home."

When asked if he was single, Flanagan said, "Yeah -- well, not anymore," and looked hopefully in the direction of his friend, Dave Adams. Adams, also a sophomore, rolled his eyes and took a bite of his lunch.

Even though Flanagan said the day is over-commercialized that, in general, the day is about love. And just because he's a single guy doesn't mean he's excluded from the holiday.

"Being single has its benefits," Flanagan said. "It's fun 364 other days of the year." His crowded table enthusiastically agreed.

Some people, however, don't. Sarah DeGrandpre, a sophomore who works at a local store that specializes in gifts for Valentine's Day, says she received a phone call from a woman who wanted \$250 worth of roses sent to her employment, for everyone to see. The card was to be signed, "From a secret admirer." She also sent herself flowers with a card that made it seem her children had sent them to her.

"While I'm a fan of sending flowers to myself," DeGrandpre said with a laugh, "I couldn't believe she was sending \$250 worth of flowers to herself and even going so far as to make up a secret admirer."

DeGrandpre said when she was in middle school and high school, she felt more pressure to have a significant other to celebrate Valentine's Day. "As I get older I find my friends can be my Valentines. If you're supposed to have a valentine then you'd have one."

And if you find yourself alone and lonely on Tuesday, Feb. 14, head to Muddy's or the Majestic. You're sure to find good company.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Photo by Emily Heffernan

St. Michael's students gather on Thursday nights at 38 Main in Winooski to start their weekends off right.

38 Main: The SMC bar for Thursdays

By Sebastian Contratti
Staff Writer

After a full week of classes and activities, most students seek some form of a release. Although the weekend officially commences on Friday, students have embraced Thursday night as the night to start the weekend off right. For many juniors and seniors, the weekend starts off at 38 Main Street Pub in Winooski.

On any given Thursday, 38 Main is dominated by a densely-populated mass of St. Michael's students.

According to Jim Durkin, senior and part-time bartender of 38 Main, the bar is often so crowded the line spills out the door and onto the street.

"You want to be where your friends are," senior Becky Samulowitz said. "And 38 Main is the equivalent to an on-campus

bar, if we had one."

Some students said the bar's popularity could be due to its deals on alcohol.

"People can always count on 38 Main to offer dollar drafts of Rolling Rock and Natural Light every Thursday evening," senior Kara Burrage said. "I think that is why it draws in such a steady crowd each week."

Senior George Hayes agrees the drink specials attract a lot of its customers, and he also thinks that 38 Main's location is ideal.

"It's pretty much the sheer convenience of it all," Hayes said. "If I get done with my homework late on a Thursday night, there's still a close bar that I can go to."

See BAR, Page 11

Burns' Night: Filled with culture and charity

By Christine McAuliffe
Arts & Entertainment Editor

As students went to get dinner at Alliot just like any other Wednesday night, many stopped dead in their tracks when they heard the Scottish music in the lobby. The Highland Weavers, a 24-year-old Scottish/Irish cover band, were celebrating Burns' Night from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Jan. 25.

Burns' Night is the most popular Scottish celebration. This day even comes above St. Andrew's Day in honor of the Scottish patron saint. The holiday is named after Robert Burns, the Scottish poet.

Professor of education Tim Whiteford spearheaded the event because he thought it would be the perfect chance to spread Scottish culture, and have the proceeds go to the Edmundite Hurricane Katrina Relief fund.

The night was interspersed with Scottish music and poetry. A friend of Whiteford, Tom Kirkpatrick, played the bagpipes in traditional attire, kilt and everything, and started the night off right.

"The most magical part of the night was the poetry," Whiteford said. "I've played music all of my life, and it was amazing to be able to share different aspects of the Scottish culture."

Many enjoyed how casual the event was. People were sitting in couches, or those just passing on their way to dinner would stop for a few moments to clap or dance. Whiteford didn't want it at a larger-scale place where people who wanted to attend had to buy a ticket. This way, anyone who wanted could come and go as they pleased.

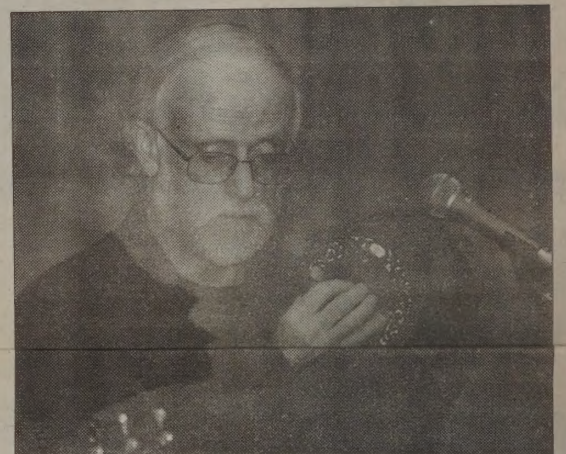
The event went so well the school wants to have another culture night that benefits the Hurricane Katrina Relief fund. Instead of a Scottish theme, it will be an Irish Night of sorts. This event might have dancing and music, possibly from the Irish Step Dancing Club, but the performances are not set in stone. The event will take place on March 9, right before spring recess.

According to the Rev. Brian Cummings, the money raised for the Hurricane Katrina fund has an immediate impact. It is sent to the Edmundites in Alabama, to New Orleans, and directly to the people who are in the greatest need.

"The night raised \$150, which was just great," Cummings said. "By the end of the month, the school will have raised \$188,000 for the fund. I cannot even begin to share how grateful the victims of Katrina are, and I have received so many thank you notes complimenting our school's outstanding participation."

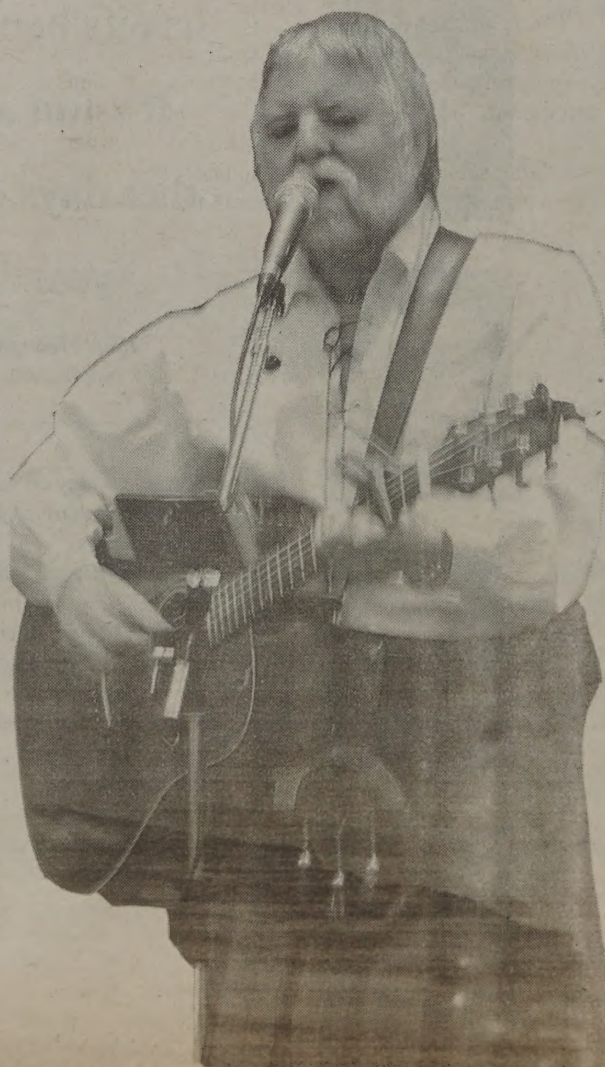
Declan McCabe, assistant professor of biology, read one of Robert Burns' poems in between songs.

"I thought the night went perfectly," McCabe said. "I know the school has the international coffee hour every Wednesday, but this was a new experience. Any little bit of culture is good for all of us."



Photos by Michael DeGrandpre

Marty Morrissey, a member of the Highland Weavers, played multiple instruments on Wednesday, Jan. 25.



"The most magical part of the night was the poetry. I've played music all of my life, and it was amazing to be able to share different aspects of the Scottish culture."

~Tim
Whiteford

Tim Whiteford, professor of education, plays Scottish music with his band, the Highland Weavers, on Wednesday, Jan. 25.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAR: 38 Main is St. Michael's new Thursday night party spot

Continued from Page 10

McKee's Pub is 38 Main's most prominent competition because it is just a block away. It attracts most of its customers by hosting contests or games in which people can engage in some friendly competition.

Johnny Utah, DJ from 99.9 The Buzz-FM, hosts "Molson Mayhem" at McKee's. There is a chance to win an array of prizes, from passes to Jay Peak to T-shirts from the Molson Coors Brewing Company.

"McKee's has more locals," senior Jay Charest said. "I would say that 'Molson Mayhem' is perhaps the only advantage that McKee's has over 38 Main."

Even though 38 Main doesn't offer promotions such as that, DJ FTS, senior Chris Hines, often spins there as a Thursday night gig. Japhy Ryder, a jazz-jam fusion quartet with a growing fan base, has also played there. These artists at-

tract many St. Michael's students.

Chris Gelinas, bartender and doorman at 38 Main, said the bar likes to mix up the music.

"Nothing is set in stone," Gelinas said. "We like to go back and forth between live entertainment and music from the jukebox. It keeps the atmosphere festive."

Gelinas also likes to watch out for the well-being of the bar's customers.

"I will go out of my way to take care of my customers," Gelinas said. "If someone has had one too many, I won't hesitate to call them a cab or even personally drive them home; anything to get kids home safe."

There are multiple reasons why 38 Main has become popular amongst St. Michael's students. If nothing else, the bar has maintained its popularity due to the unseasonably warm weather this winter.



Photo by Emily Heffernan

DJ FTS, senior Chris Hines (middle), spins for St. Michael's friends Thursday night at 38 Main.

Less Than Jake is more than punk

Local fans come out and support the Gainesville band at Higher Ground

By Ryan Lowell
Staff Writer

Even though there are only two vocalists in Less Than Jake, Chris Demakes and Roger Mangenelli were assisted by hundreds of fans who belted out the words to every song.

Less Than Jake, a five member punk-ska band from Gainesville, Fla., performed at Higher Ground on Wednesday, Feb. 1.

Drummer Vinnie Fiorello said the band was pleasantly surprised by the size of the crowd.

"There's a big snowboarding scene here, and that lifestyle goes hand-in-hand with punk music," Fiorello said. "It's an aggressive sport and our music appeals to the more aggressive side of kids."

The band played many of its fans's favorites, such as its reggae single "The Science of Selling Yourself Short." Also played was the classic "Jen Doesn't Like Me Anymore," a song from its 1995 album "Pezcore." Fans even got a sneak preview of the songs appearing on the band's upcoming album, "In With the Out Crowd," which will be released May 16.

Sophomore Ryan McGrath said after seeing the band three times, this was its best performance.

"It was awesome that they played a lot of older stuff,"

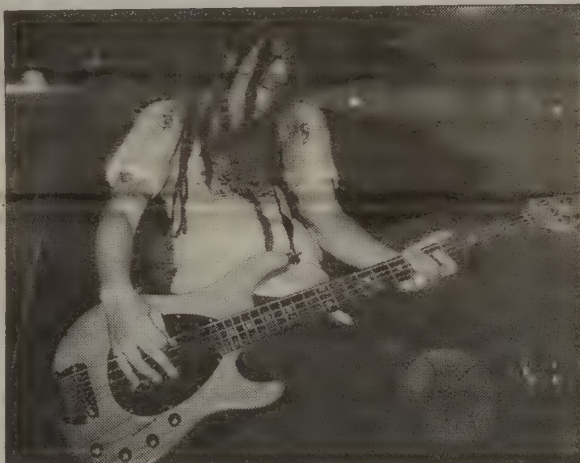


Photo by Ryan Lowell

Roger Mangenelli, bassist of Less Than Jake performs at Higher Ground on Wednesday, Feb. 1.

McGrath said. "They put in a lot of energy, and there weren't any weak points in their set."

The band kept its unrelenting pace for the entire show, involving the crowd with mischievous antics. At one point, the audience was covered with toilet paper. A daring fan also was allowed to freestyle rap on the stage.

The band finished its set with the same relentless pace,

including a medley of several faster tracks from its first two albums, such as "Throw the Brick" and "Automatic."

Less Than Jake's bassist, Roger Mangenelli said it has been a while since they have performed.

"We haven't toured in a really long time," Mangenelli said, "so it's been really refreshing to get back on stage and have fun with the crowd."

The band has a history of listening to harder music, such as punk from the East Bay, Calif. scene, and even Iron Maiden, Mangenelli said.

"Even though we are listening to hard stuff, we're trying to keep the new album pretty similar to what we've done in the past," Mangenelli said. "The production is a lot bigger on this album so it might sound a little different, but we've been a band for 14 years. You're cheating on yourself if you don't try to challenge yourself."

The band plans to continue touring until late August in support of its new album, Fiorello said.

"We've been touring in the states for two weeks now, and we'll stay in North America until late March," Fiorello said. "Next we'll go to the U.K. until mid-May, when we're coming back to do in-stores to promote the new album. After that, we're going on the Warped Tour for the entire summer. We'll keep touring as long as kids keep coming."

By Christine McAuliffe
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Love is a common theme in many movies, no matter what the genre. On Dec. 16, "Brokeback Mountain," a film about the love between two cowboys, was released.

Viewers all across the nation were shocked (Whether people thought it was a good or bad surprise, that was the general reaction).

Some loved all the hype that went along with the film.

"Going to see 'Brokeback Mountain,' I had few expectations about the movie," sophomore Sarah DeGrandpre said. "I had seen a preview before, but all I knew was that it was a love story about two cowboys. I was really just excited to see it because there had been a lot of controversy surrounding it, and I wanted to see what all

the hype was about."

Others thought that the movie was getting more exposure than it deserved.

"'Brokeback Mountain' is everywhere," senior Kristen Baslik said. "It was like 'The Passion of the Christ,' a movie that is talked about everywhere, and I really just don't have the desire to see it — either of them."

There were also those who saw the film because they just wanted to see it: not because of the attention it has been getting.

"Well, I didn't get into the hype a lot,"

senior Lindsey Venne said. "I first saw an ad for it a long time ago, and my best friend and I wanted to see it right away."

Ang Lee, the director of the movie, stirring up controversy was not the reason he made this film.

Lee has been quoted in the media saying:

"You can never categorize or stereotype a region or place," Lee said. "People fall in love, period. This is a universal story. I just wanted to make a love story."

Whether the story is relatable or not, many believe the direction of films is

changing.

"This movie opened up a whole new range for films," Venne said. "Before it was always girl-on-girl or heterosexual, and this has brought a lot of attention to the gay male culture. However, I still think the topic is taboo in many areas of the country, hence all the riots and protests, which is sad."

DeGrandpre echoes Venne's thoughts about the movie being a good starting point, but there needs to be more exposure before society fully accepts films centered around gay love.

"I believe the movie has shown a positive spotlight on the relationship between two people of the same sex can have," DeGrandpre said. "Also, it was very interesting to see how same-sex relationships were perceived a few decades ago, which definitely relates to the surprise ending."

The straw that Broke-the-Back

COLUMNS

*You know, you could just
send me all these questions.
You always said you wanted
your name in print.*

Send your questions to :

Ask Arly

Box 275

defender@smcvt.edu

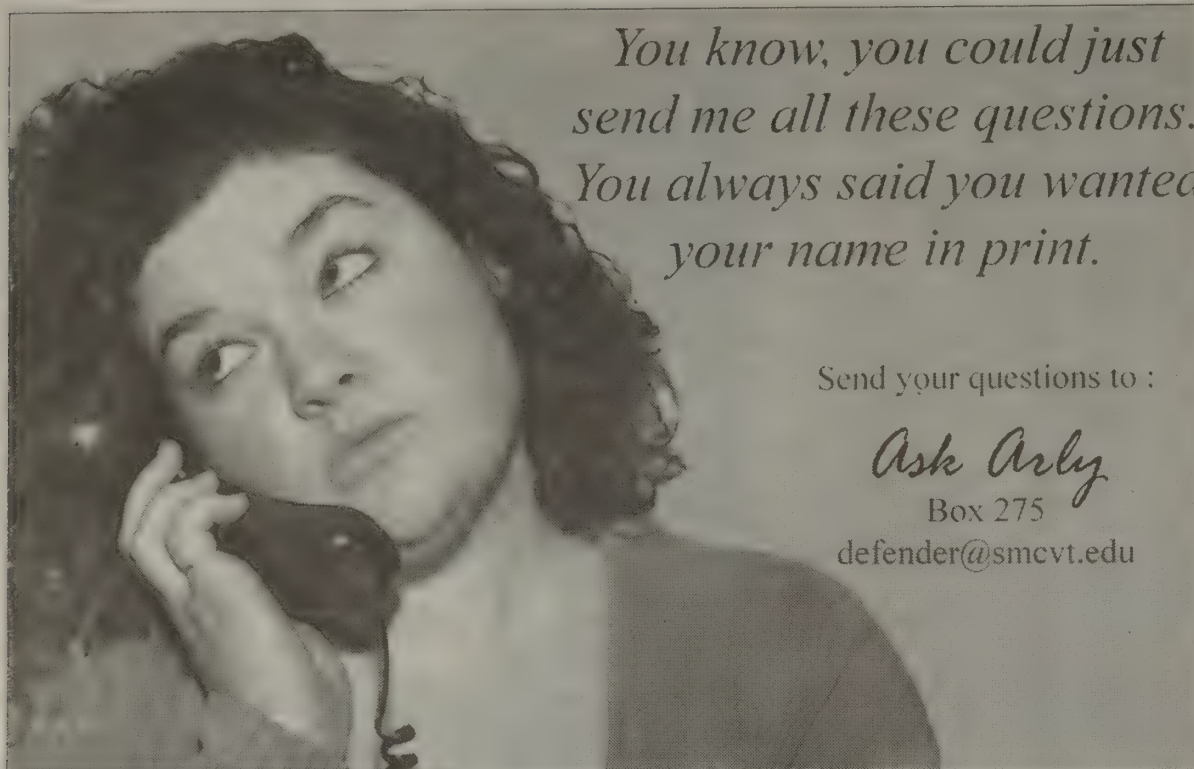


Photo illustration by Michael DeGrandpre

Popping the SMC bubble

Courtney Alex
Guest Columnist

Crowds surrounded the parade of predominately white students following two black young men. Words like “nigger” and “faggot” were being thrown around as though they were a greeting, like “Hello.” The odd part about this scenario was I wasn’t dreaming or watching a movie. I was at St. Michael’s College on Saturday, Jan. 28, ~~representing women~~.

I’m a senior and I live off campus. I should say, I fortunately live off-campus. On rare occurrences, I decide to come to college to “party,” and Saturday night was one of these. Lucky me.

Here is what I encountered: I walked into a house full of angry people crowded around a visiting friend. He had a black eye and a large welt on his forehead. Apparently, he saw some St. Michael’s students throwing bottles and cans at his car so he asked if they would stop. Well, they did stop throwing the empties but proceeded to approach this harmless visitor and beat him up. They pushed a female student, who had to run in and grab some men to get these “boys” off of her boyfriend.

I walked outside because I heard screaming. A few of us walked over to see what was happening because a peer told us students were fighting and yelling racial slurs. About 50 angry men were involved. I spotted Security and walked away because I figured they would end the testosterone and beer-filled men from doing anything too serious. Wrong again.

There were two black men, one stopping the other from egging on the fight, walking around the rotunda in the middle of the 200s. About 50-plus white students were following them. Some were trying to stop whatever was going on, but the majority were part of the threat march. From the distance I could hear a lot of profanity but the most shocking were words like “niggers” and “faggots.” My jaw dropped, my heart raced and my body became numb. I couldn’t believe my eyes or my ears. The only things missing were the white robes and stakes.

I saw some fights break out to-

ward the end of the parade and because brave souls who broke it up, it seemed to wane a little. I think the quote of the night was: “The South rules. Faggots.”

But where was Security? Why weren’t these people getting in trouble for hate crime? Underage drinking? Abuse? Anything?

I don’t know what caused the uproar. They may have had a valid ~~saw and heard~~, and no matter what the issue was, the chaos of Saturday was uncalled for.

When I didn’t think my night could get any better (facetious), I noticed yet another St. Michael’s College student in a tree, ripping down branches like a wild ape that had been locked up for months, years maybe.

**I think the
quote of the
night was:
“The South
rules.
Faggots.”**

Guess who showed up? Security!

The security guard told the young man to get down out of the tree and said something like, “I don’t really care about the trees but I want you to get down.” A group of my friends said, “Well, we care about the trees,” because there are only, like, three trees on campus. And what did he say? “Then you deal with it next time.”

I was ashamed at who is representing our college. To think, some of these students are going to be let out of the zoo come May and are going out into the wild, is frightening.

I was upset with Security. The word “secure” is in their title. That was the least I felt that night. Where were they for “nigger,” face pounding

and the flying bottles?

I don’t think this should be a “hush-hush,” situation. This is a serious issue. The fact that there will be no repercussions is pathetic. A first-year who gets busted for drinking a beer will get a harsher penalty than those that commit hate crimes and harassment.

I’m beyond lucky for living off campus. I have met tons of locals, and have become a part of a community. I’ll never forget a fellow student saying to me on Church Street, “How do you know so many people down here? All I know are people from St. Michael’s.” Maybe it’s time to rethink the issue of housing and allow more students to live off campus. Other than programs like MOVE, students aren’t forced to be a part of a community.

Saturday night brought up a lot of large issues. It made me realize how excited I am to graduate St. Michael’s High. I am beyond ready to leave. I love all the friends I have made, and I honestly value the education I have received. But as I go off, I hope the administration and students re-evaluate the serious issues that are occurring on campus.

Rumors about the fight have been flying around all week, but next week it will be forgotten, just like the swastika drawing on a townhouse door this past fall. We received the e-mails, we discussed it with peers, and one week later it was painted over and we forgot it even happened.

The “bubble” of St. Michael’s isn’t going to last forever, kids. Neither is the tolerance. The real world is realer than you think, and someday you won’t be able to get away with sleeping through your alarm, buying rounds of beer on your parents’ credit card or screaming “faggot” across campus.

If something isn’t done about these crucial issues now, it never will be. It’s time to pop the bubble and let reality come leaking in.

Contact Courtney Alex at calex@smcvt.edu

Good at getting friends, and that’s where it ends

Q I’m a first year student, and despite having several lady friends and being good company for many, I always have trouble being anything but a friend to people. Everything’ll be going great until I ask them out, at which time they mysteriously disappear. I valued these friendships and as a result of losing good friends, have tried to focus only on women I’m not already familiar with.

And now it’s sort of become like that Jimmy Buffet song “Another Saturday Night.” As the lyrics go, “If I could meet ‘em, I could get ‘em, but as yet I haven’t met ‘em, that’s why I’m in the shape I’m in.” And on top of that, I’m terribly shy. I guess what I’m getting at is, to prevent risking losing anymore friendships, do you have any tips for getting past that initial conversation with members of the opposite sex who I don’t already know?

I’m the sort of old-fashioned guy who thinks it obnoxious to use those same, tired pickup lines and to hook up with women when they’re incapacitated for one-night stands. I’m looking for a meaningful relationship with someone I can really appreciate, but once again, it’s that initial conversation that gets me. I’m active enough (Wilderness Program, skiing, etc), but am not a jock.

I’m creative, love movies, and will listen to any type of music. I’ve been told I’m excellent company and always seem to do well with women who are strictly friends, so I honestly have no clue what the problem is. Please, Arly, any advice?

~Mr. NiceGuy



Ask Arly

Answers to your questions
on life, liberty, and the
pursuit of happiness.

A Oh the dreaded “I like you. I just don’t ‘like you’ like you” conversation. (But in the long run, it’s probably a good thing you’re not dating a lady who can only describe her feelings by repeating a Valley Girl catchphrase. Like, right?)

Most ladies become overwhelmed by anyone who just springs a “Hey, wanna date?” on them in the omelet line during brunch. You seem to be playing the game correctly. Friends first, frenching later. But since you’ve been burned by that I can see why you’d shy away from it. My advice? Don’t.

It’s only fair to be up front about what you’re looking for. Some women just want a physical relationship. And that’s fine, but you seem to want more than that. Since you’re not just looking for friends with benefits, be up front about that. But don’t go into situations saying, “Hi, I’m Mr. NiceGuy. We can’t be friends because it could potentially get in the way of the relationship I’m looking for.”

If you meet the potential “someone special,” ask her to do something with you and a group of your friends. It doesn’t have the same stigma as a “date” but it still gives you a chance to have some one-on-one time. It makes it that much easier to say, “I had fun Saturday night. Maybe we should do it again, you know, just the two of us.” If it’s no, leave it at that. Don’t dwell on it, but don’t forget it happened. And when it’s yes, do a little happy dance, and make sure you find out her food allergies. (Nothing kills a solid date like anaphylactic shock.)

In the meantime, keep doing what you’re doing. You seem like a true gentleman, which anyone can appreciate. Go stand in front of a mirror and say, “Mr. NiceGuy, you are the man.” Repeat as necessary. Confidence always manages to make the ladies swoon. You sent me an e-mail jam-packed with all of your great qualities. If you didn’t believe you possessed them, I doubt you’d have included them. So start believing in those. As long as you say things with a confident and genuine smile, you can’t go wrong. Bottom line, you have to trust your instincts. You say you don’t want to risk killing a friendship by starting a relationship. How do you know you’re not killing a relationship by not asking? Who knows? Maybe that fifth friend you ask will turn out to be Ms. NiceGal

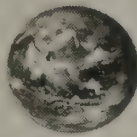
COLUMNS

Sweethearts Study Abroad

By Erin Benner and Andrew McCusker
Guest Columnists

Studying in Edinburgh, Scotland, has been both an amazing and overwhelming experience. New places, a new culture, new classes, a new bed to sleep in, and lots of new faces are the exciting parts of being in a foreign country. At the same time, it's also great to have a familiar face to share it all with. This year for Valentine's Day, we hope to take advantage of what Edinburgh has to offer.

We celebrated our first Valentine's Day way back during our senior year of high school in small-town Maine. Mid-coast Maine is nice in its quaintness. It's got its coffee shops, book stores, beautiful ocean scenery, and many small businesses. Burlington where we've spent our past two Valentine's Days is similar in its atmosphere, but with a lot more to offer. The small



SMC the World

Study Abroad
students write
Home

town/city atmosphere is perfect for us, and being able to celebrate in these two places over the years has been wonderful.

Being in Edinburgh for Valentine's Day this year will definitely prove to be a huge step up from what we are used to. As Scotland's ancient capital city, it's bustling at all hours of the night; the streets are crowded with taxis, double-decker buses, and people from all over the world. Theaters, cinemas, shops, restaurants, galleries, museums and many, many pubs line the streets, making our small hometowns seem very far away. While we miss Burlington and Maine very much, we are very excited to experience a com-

plete change of pace. People say the study abroad experience is an opportunity of a lifetime, and as cliché as that sounds, we've realized how true it is. Studying abroad in Edinburgh, like studying at St. Mike's, is destined to be one more thing we'll add to our list of amazing things we've experienced together.

So, this year on Valentine's Day we're going to do some more exploring of the city together, maybe finding a small restaurant or café that we can think of as "our place," and hopefully extend the area of the world that we consider our home across the pond to Edinburgh.

Contact Erin Benner at ebenner@smcvt.edu and Andrew McCusker at amccusker@smcvt.edu.



Photo courtesy of Andrew McCusker
Erin Benner and Andrew McCusker, both juniors, are currently studying in Scotland at the University of Edinburgh. The couple have been dating since their senior year in high school.

CALENDAR

For the EARS

Wednesday, 2/8

Aimee Mann. The artist who performed the entire "Magnolia" sound track comes to Higher Ground. Chuck Prophet opens. Tickets available online at www.highergroundmusic.com or call 652-0777. All ages. \$25-\$27. Doors open at 7 p.m. Show starts at 8 p.m.

Grammy Awards. The 48th annual awards show gives props to the best and brightest musician we've got. Paul McCartney, Kelly Clarkson, and Ciara are among the artists scheduled to perform. Channel 3, CBS. 8 p.m.

Thursday, 2/10

Open Mic Night. Green Up SMC and the Peace and Justice club give you a chance to belt out your best Aretha-inspired rendition of "R-E-S-P-E-C-T". To find out what it means, to me, show up at Eddies. 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, 2/11

Spiritual Rez. This 10-piece Reggae-funk band based in Boston will jam out for our listening pleasure. Check it out at www.spiritualrez.com. Bonus points for anyone who memorizes all the words to its songs. Alliot. 9 p.m.

Roots of Jazz Concert. Spring Multicultural Series presents this event of music and dance featuring the SMC jazz band and the Essex Children's Choir. McCarthy Arts Center, 4-6 p.m.

For the BODY

Friday, 2/10

Hiking The Guadelupe Ridge: Canyons, Caves, and Cactus. Grab some friends and slap on your hiking boots to listen to the ins and outs of backpacking the Carlsbad National Parks. The Green Mountain Club presents this as part of its James P. Taylor winter series. Call 244-7037 ext. 17 for more details. Lamoille Union High School, Hyde Park. 7 p.m.

Saturday, 2/11

Winter Carnival Championship Games. Ice hockey, football, Frisbee and broomball teams battle to the death in the final games of their respective tournaments. On the 300s field. Game times TBA.

11th Annual Penguin Plunge. Every year hundreds jump into the frigid water of Lake Champlain to benefit Special Olympics Vermont. With the weather we've been having it doesn't sound so scary an idea. Contact Rachel Lawler at rlawler2@smcvt.edu for more information or to donate. Follow the half-naked people to the Lake Champlain waterfront near the Burlington Community Boathouse at 9 a.m.

Monday, 2/12

Irish Step Dancing. You could be the next Michael Flatley! Every Monday night the group meets in the International Commons to practice their high kicks and freakish upper body control. Contact Julie Griffin-Carty at jgriffincart@smcvt.edu for more details. International Commons. 7:30 p.m.



For the EYES

Wednesday, 2/8

"Crash." The Spring Multicultural Series presents this film that addresses issues of hate and prejudice. Nominated for six Academy Awards, including Best Picture, this film is worth watching. McCarthy Arts Center. 6 p.m.

Friday, 2/10

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead." Mike Mosey, a senior theater major, directs Tom Stoppard's play. Even though you can't say it, you shouldn't miss your chance to see it. You can also catch it Saturday at 2 or 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Here's the catch: you have to e-mail rzalweski@smcvt.edu to reserve a seat. McCarthy Arts Center. 7 p.m.

Saturday, 2/11

Jibfest. You won't believe your eyes when you see all the sick ski and snowboard tricks. Prizes for the top finishers, plus a crowd prize at the end. Sponsored by the Ski & Snowboard club and the Student Association. Rumor has it there's going to be a huge finish you won't want to miss. 300s field. 6 p.m.

Tuesday, 2/14

"Seoul Train." The Peace and Justice department and the journalism department join together and present the first in the 2006 Peace and Justice film series. This documentary follows North Koreans attempting to flee their country. McCarthy Arts Center. 6 p.m.

For the MIND

Wednesday, 2/8

Interview Practice Session. Read the story on page four. Ring a bell? Help yourself get ready for the real world by going to this workshop. Look for the suits. Alliot Hall. 4 p.m.

Onion River Review Poetry Reading. Come read some poetry aloud or listen to your peers as they share theirs. Hohel Welcoming Center. 6 p.m.

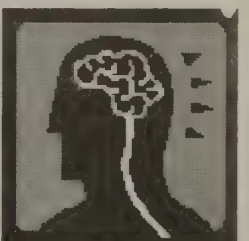
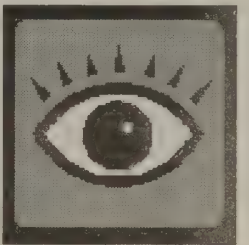
Thursday, 2/9

"The Making of a Home. A Perspective on Lifesharing."

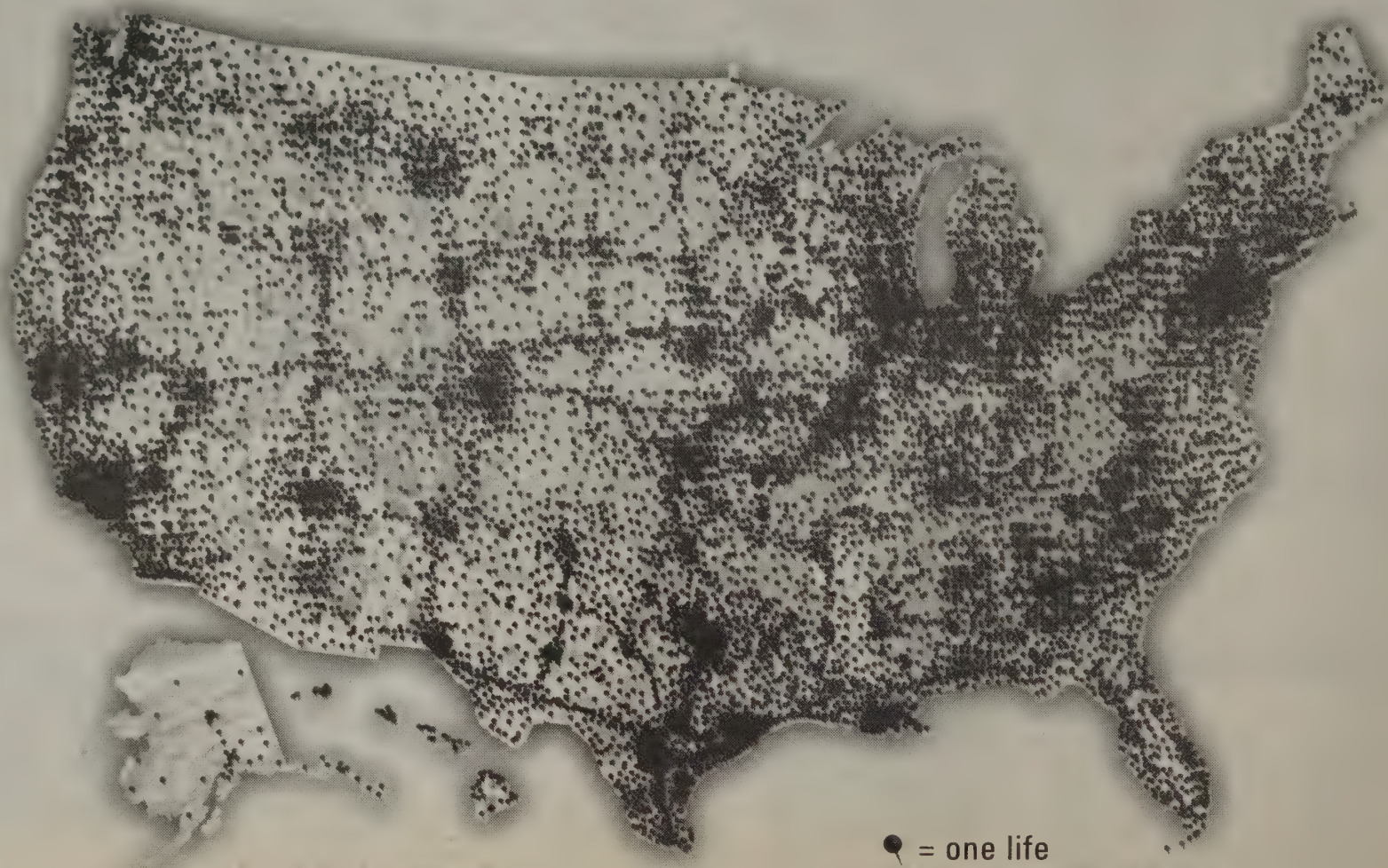
Robin Carlson presents this lecture aimed at people working or living with those who have developmental disabilities. Farrell room. St. Edmund's Hall. 7 p.m.

Tuesday, 2/14

Woodcock Walk. Go on a nature walk with your sweetheart in honor of Valentine's Day and learn all about the woodcock's unusual mating habits. (FYI, the woodcock is a bird.) Make sure to bundle up and wear appropriate shoes. Bring a flashlight or a torch. It's limited to 15 people so call (802) 868-4781 to make sure you've got a spot. Meet at the Old Refuge Headquarters in Swanton on Highway 78. Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge. 6:30-8:30 p.m.



If 17,000 people died tomorrow, would you notice?



Of course you would. There would be 24-hour news coverage. Dramatic headlines. And a devastating effect on our country forever. But last year, drinking and driving did kill about 17,000 people. It injured half a million more. But because it happened over a year rather than in a single day, most of us hardly noticed. It's a growing problem, with a simple answer. If you drink, find a safe way home. And help remove the marks that drunk driving leaves on our country.

Pin placements do not represent actual crash sites.



MADD

Activism | Victim Services | Education

www.madd.org

FUN PAGE

HOROSCOPES

By Sean Cooley

LIBRA: (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)
Quit stalking people on Facebook. If you keep it up they're going to have to rename it Sketchbook.

SCORPIO: (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
Give some of the classrooms on campus a black light test. Guaranteed, that's not toothpaste covering the desks and the doorknobs.

SAGITTARIUS: (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Cherish your time left in college. You don't want to know a world that's awake before 10 a.m.

CAPRICORN: (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
Find someone with OCD and give him a good stabbing. Remember to stab in multiples of four and avoid stepping on any cracks.

AQUARIUS: (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
The next fortune cookie you eat will actually hold a deeper meaning for you ... in bed.

PISCES: (Feb. 19 - March 20)
Who's going to buy all of those "Newlyweds" final season DVD's now? You are.

ARIES: (March 21 - April 19)
It's alright that you're old enough to be in college and still have troubles with acne; if you're training for the Fugly Olympics, that is.

TAURUS: (April 20 - May 20)
Valentine's Day will be a great opportunity to mail a cute care package to someone. Maybe this year, the box of chocolates won't magically open and jump down your throat before you send them.

GEMINI: (May 21 - June 20)
Learn to dress more professionally. Wear the clean sweatpants to class this week.

CANCER: (June 21 - July 22)
Only you have the guts to coax Congressman Bernie Sanders to join the military. He ought to be able to work up the ranks to Col. Sanders in no time.

LEO: (July 23 - Aug. 22)
Begin prepping for next years' "American Idol" auditions in Burlington. They're not technically auditions, but Ryan Seacrest does need a singer for his civil union ceremony.

VIRGO: (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
You will take the longest pee of your life this weekend. It will be in your mattress, unfortunately.

SUDOKU By Sara Randolph

Instructions: Fill in the grid so every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

	2	6			3			
1	8	4	2		5	7		
9		5			8			
8			4	9			5	
	4	7		6	1	3		
2				5			8	
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3				2	7			

CROSSWORD PUZZLE By Matt Ryan

Subject: Countries ending in "A"

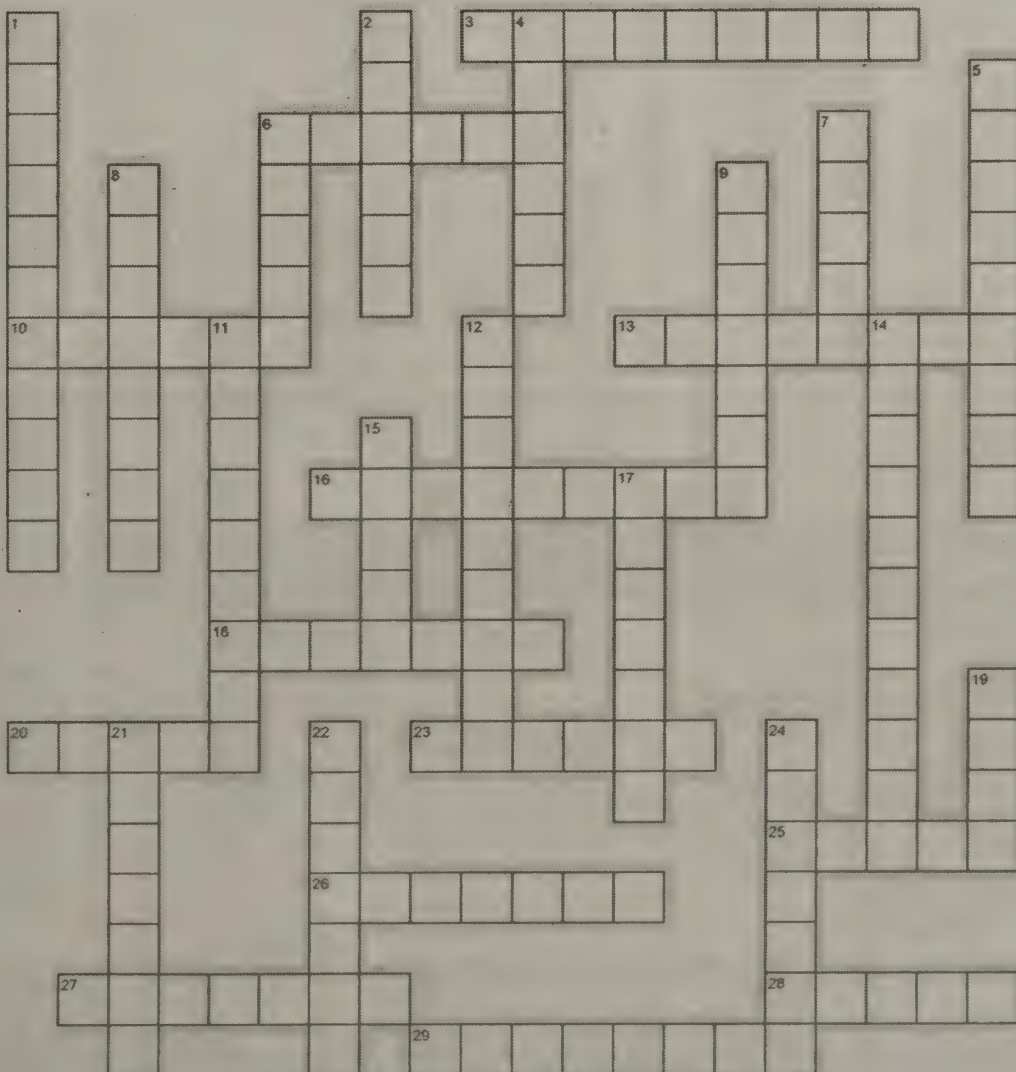
ACROSS

- Its cricket fans are accused of racially insulting players.
- 12 years of liberal rule ended here recently
- Ivan Denisovich spent some time here-in a gulag.
- 30,000 of its people were killed by a recent tsunami.
- Its leader recently expelled a US diplomat.
- Anarchy since 1991.
- Bombed PanAm plane above Scotland in 1988.
- Victoria Falls and malaria.
- New gold mines creating tensions here.
- Dracula land.
- Recently elected first woman head of state in Africa.
- Vishnu. Shiva. Gandhi.
- Sweeping "Pop Idol" mania and extreme poverty.

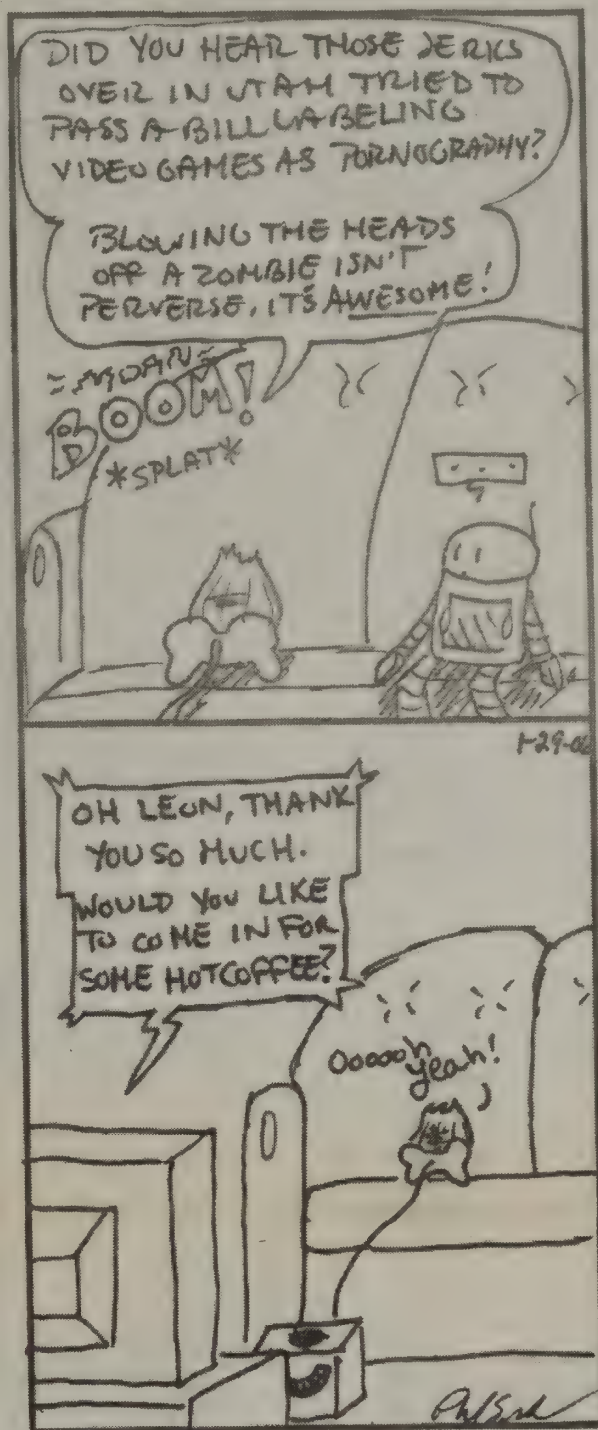
DOWN

- Recently a ferry with 1,400 passengers sank in the Red Sea after leaving port here.
- Van Halen wrote a song about it.
- The Lord's Resistance Army stalks its northern regions.
- Defeated US basketball team in 2004 Olympics.
- Most populated country.
- Recently withdrew troops from Lebanon.
- Thato.
- Battle of Carthage here.

- World's largest Muslim country.
- Gave the world the Tango.
- North of South Korea
- From Nairobi to safari.
- The most northerly former Soviet Baltic state
- Has been sanctioned by the US for over 40 years.
- Elected its first indigenous president in Dec.- a former llama herder.
- It's gas pipeline with Russia was mysteriously blown up recently.
- Won independence from France in 1962.



ONION RUN By Phil Smith



OUTDOORS

Ice climbing popular among women

Women-only trips offer a welcoming environment

By Meg Bookless
Staff Writer

Sophomore Ashley Wheeler is a Mary Kay beauty consultant, 12-year ballet student, and Miss Vermont second-runner up. In other words, she's not exactly who you'd expect to be hanging from the gleaming face of a frozen waterfall on a Saturday afternoon. She was working on expanding her comfort zone.

On Saturday, Jan. 8, Wheeler participated in one of the Wilderness Program's introduction to ice climbing expeditions.

Snacks and gear were bursting out of their backpacks when the eager group climbed into the school-issued van. By 7:45 a.m., the vehicle was on its way to Smugglers' Notch.

Throughout the day the group learned how to belay, which is a rope system to keep each other from free-falling if they slipped off of the ice. They learned how to place their crampons in the ice first and then reach above them with their ice tools.

For Wheeler, the most important lesson was learning that mental strength really does override physical strength. As she was hanging from her picks, too tired to move farther up the ice, she heard the women cheering from below.

"I don't even know where it came from, but I let out this very manly roar and just dug my picks in," said Wheeler. "I just looked back and I was like, 'I'm so badass.'"

The women-only clinic is unique. Participants said it has been a great success.

"With girls it is a completely different environment," sophomore Tom Lanagan said. "Lots of guys are all macho and power their way up. Girls help each other out." Lanagan said that women on co-ed trips often take the backseat because they are intimidated.

Lanagan led the climbing trip with junior Ian Guertin. Both men had to go through about 80 hours of classroom training and probate lead two ice climbing trips before becoming certified ice climbing leaders for the Wilderness Program. Kara MacKeil, a first-year student, is becoming a leader and was an assistant to Guertin and Lanagan.

The option to become a guide for many disciplines is only one of the positive experiences the Wilderness Pro-

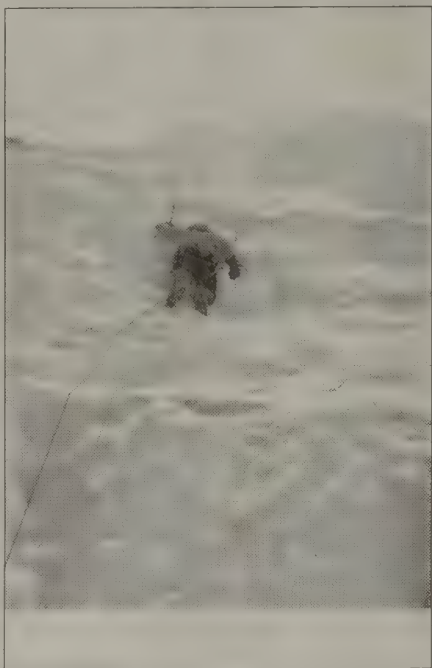


Photo by Ashley Wheeler

Kim Bookless climbs a wall of ice.

gram has to offer. The club was originally started by Todd Wright in 1997 to train students to professional standards. Wright is the director of the Wilderness Program and a '96 graduate.

The club has since grown and offers more than 80 programs at a low cost to St. Michael's students.

"The Wilderness Program is a private guide service to the college and a good thing for students who are interested in getting more certification in outdoor disciplines," MacKeil said.

Lanagan said although physical strength does help, women do well because they take time to learn proper climbing technique.

"The hardest part for any climbing is developing footwork," Todd Wright said.

Ice climbing with the Wilderness Program is easy to afford. The price of \$15 covers transportation, lessons and gear rentals.

Climbing gear includes: helmets, crampons (spikes you attach to the bottom of your boots), mountaineering boots, ice tools (curved ice picks), carabiners, ropes, belay devices, harnesses, gaiters (to keep snow out of your boots), and day packs are provided by the Wilderness Program outfitter in Cashman Hall.

St. Michael's students can use equipment free of charge. Most beginner climb-



Photo by Todd Wright

The Wilderness Program runs many ice climbing trips, some for women only.

ers spend over \$150 on their equipment and another \$200 on a private lesson. Other necessary items such as warm winter clothes, water bottles and snacks must be provided by the students.

These ice climbers are the group of thrill-seekers that quietly march across

campus carrying brilliant red backpacks and Nalgene's.

"It's about experiencing what Vermont has to offer," Wheeler said. "Sometimes we forget there's more to this state than skiing, snowboarding, and running."

Upcoming Wilderness Program trips

► Saturday, Feb. 11

Snowshoe Mount Abraham
Ice Climbing Level 2
Telemark Ski Clinic
Grey Knob Mountain Overnight

► Sunday, Feb. 12

Learn to Ski/Snowboard
Full Moon Snowshoe

► Friday, Feb. 17

Alpine Leaders Training Course

► Saturday, Feb. 25

Snowshoe Mount Moosilauke
AIARE Avalanche Training Course
Telemark Ski Clinic
Snowshoe Mount Jefferson

► Sunday, Feb. 26

Snowshoe Burnt Mountain
Learn to Ski/Snowboard

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OUTDOORS

A long night on the Long Trail

Three Middlebury students call 911, rescued from cold

By Kim Bookless
Staff Writer

Night was coming on the Long Trail, and the temperature was dropping. Three hikers and their equipment, soaked from a steady rain, hurried toward shelter.

On Friday, Jan. 13, first-year Middlebury College students Garrett Reynolds, Yan Min Choo, Mung Wa Tsang and Nick Hanks along with visiting friend Sinting Yip, began their adventure up the Long Trail in Hancock, according to Reynolds.

Reynolds delivered a firsthand account of the events that transpired over the next two days.

"We wanted to do it even though the weather wasn't going to be good," Reynolds said. "Maybe that was our mistake."

The hiking party knew from weather reports that rain was forecast for Friday night and temperatures would drop in the evening. Despite this, the friends were determined to continue with their weekend plans.

They carried a map, compass, sleeping bags, rain gear, garbage bags, tents and a cell phone. When they didn't reach Boyce shelter on Friday night, Reynolds said the party pitched its tents. They believed the tents and the tarp on which they were placed would keep the rain out.

The students woke up soaking wet. Rain had leaked through the tents, soaking all the gear and the hikers. At this point Hanks and Yip decided to hike back, but Reynolds, Choo, and Tsang continued their hike to Boyce shelter.

The hikers misjudged the distance to the shelter. By the time they reached it, night was approaching.

Attempting to dry their soaked boots, they put them over a small camping stove. The stove was not strong enough to dry the boots and eventually the footwear froze.

They boiled water to put in Nalgene bottles and put them in their sleeping bags to keep them warm. They planned to hike down in the morning.

They woke covered in snow. Reynolds' thermometer read nine below zero. The boots, which had been wet the night before, were frozen solid.

"We couldn't really put on our shoes because they were very heavy, like a piece of rock or something," Reynolds said. "We couldn't even bend the laces."

Attempts to thaw their boots proved fruitless, so Reynolds called 911. He could only communicate his location to the rescuers. Reynolds did not know



Photos by Nick Hanks

Sinting Yip (from left), Mung Wa Tsang, Garrett Reynolds and Yan Min Choo melt snow on a stove for water.

"If you run into conditions you aren't prepared for, go home! The mountains will be there next week."

Eben Widlund,
interim assistant Wilderness
Program director



When the group began its trip on Jan. 13, the weather was mild. Temperatures dropped dramatically the next night.

when help would arrive.

The hikers got back in their sleeping bags to stay warm. While waiting for rescuers to retrieve them, Reynolds said Bruce Thompson, a hiker in the area, must have heard their call over a personal radio and came to find them.

"We called him 'Arctic Commando Santa Claus,'" Reynolds said with a laugh. "He walked up through the snow with this huge red pack and started handing out dry sleeping bags, started a fire, and made us stew."

About an hour later Vermont State Trooper Paul Feeney and Sgt. Donald Isabelle, a game warden with the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, arrived and helped thaw out the students' boots, according to a Jan. 18 Burlington Free Press article.

Thompson left the hikers in the care of Feeney and Isabelle, who guided them through the woods to waiting snowmobiles. The hikers were evaluated at Porter Hospital for signs of frostbite and then released, according to a press release from the Vermont State Police.

Reynolds, a Toronto native, said he was the only hiker with winter hiking experience.

He admitted the group should have re-evaluated its plans after learning about the weather.

Eben Widlund, interim assistant director of the Wilderness Program, gave the same advice.

"One of the biggest problems that gets people in trouble is they are not willing to change their plans," Widlund said. "If you run into conditions you aren't prepared for, go home! The mountains will be there next week."

Widlund is a certified SOLO wilderness medical instructor, SOLO wilderness EMT, and SOLO search and rescue instructor, and has other outdoor medical and assistance qualifications.

SOLO, Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities, has been teaching wilderness and emergency medicine since 1976. Its school is in Conway, New Hampshire.

Widlund said education is important to surviving wilderness undertakings.

He said one problem many hikers face is they don't realize trail maps mark approximate times for good weather condi-

tions. They don't factor in that winter hiking takes longer, especially in icy conditions.

For any time listed in a guide book, hikers should add on 25 percent to 50 percent of that time for winter hiking, Widlund said.

Lt. Jocelyn Stohl, Vermont State Police search and rescue team leader, said too often people will claim hiking experience, but experience and education aren't the same thing.

"The majority of people being rescued are those who did not prepare themselves," Stohl said. "They did not educate themselves to a degree where they understand this is their responsibility."

Stohl said the plan was flawed from the beginning. The hikers selected a plan that was not suitable for the level of experience they had. While they informed four people they were leaving, two of those four people left campus for the weekend.

Widlund said the most important thing is to leave a plan with a trusted friend. If you don't get back in time, that person should call the state police.

Reynolds said he left their plan with his roommate, who was about to call the police when Reynolds called from the hospital.

Another problem is reliance on cell phones.

"People take off with their cell phones, then the battery dies, or they don't have good cell reception," Stohl said. "People need to think about it and realize that it's not a 100 percent guarantee."

Reynolds said he learned something from this experience.

"I didn't think this could ever happen," he said. "It's a good thing we all got out when we did. Another night and we would have started suffering some permanent damage."

Reynolds said he will hike again, but will be more conscious of weather conditions and willing to change his plans.

He has started planning a trip to Mount Washington, although he said his mother disagreed with that plan.

"Mom was worried (when she found out). Then she sent me a box of warm clothes."

SPORTS

Captain hits milestone far from home

By Andrea Lissor
Sports Editor

BJ Robertson, a 21-year-old Burlington native describes himself as family oriented.

"That's why I chose St. Mikes," Robertson said. "I love to be close to my family and have that home atmosphere. That, and because St. Mikes recruited me pretty heavily."

Robertson, a psychology major, graduated from Burlington High School in 2002, and brought with him a loyal fan base. His fan base was left disappointed after he was pulled with six minutes to go and three points away from 1,000 on Jan. 14 vs. Stonehill.

"There was a lot of controversy," Robertson said. "Coach said he didn't want me to get injured, but my family and friends who had come to watch me were really disappointed."

Two days later, at Bentley, he reached his goal.

"I thought they might announce it or something, but they didn't," Robertson said. "The assistant coach from the other team acknowledged it though. He shook my hand and congratulated me."

Assistant Coach Joe Krupinski explained pulling Robertson from the Stonehill game was not intentional.

"The game was out of hand," he said. "It wasn't a great effort for us, and being such an important part of the team we needed BJ to be in full strength." I don't think any of us realized where he was in terms of the points, we were just coaching

the game and the game dictated that we take out all our starters. We just had to do what was best for the team and for BJ."

Krupinski cites Robertson's ability to score as his main attribute on the court.

"He can put the ball in the basket and find ways to score sometimes when you wouldn't think he'd be able to," Krupinski said.

As well as a high scorer, Krupinski describes Robertson, the senior captain, as a great leader and one of the hardest workers in four years.

Krupinski initially hoped he would develop and by junior year be contributing. By mid-season of Robertson's first year he was in the starting lineup.

"He came in for his first day of practice and I said to Coach O'Shea, 'Wow, BJ's really doing some good things out there,'" Krupinski said. He came in with the mind set that he was going to be a good player, and he's really worked every day at it."

As for the remainder of the season, Robertson has two hopes.

"I really want to get a road win," he said. "We haven't done that yet. I'd like to make the playoffs."

Krupinski shares these hope as well, and believes Robertson will be one of the men to lead the team there.

"He's definitely one of our core guys," Krupinski said. "I'm confident he'll play well during this last stretch. I think he's having a good year and he's going to be able to finish strong."

Six skiers quit team

By Jack Owens
Staff Writer

The St. Michael's Nordic ski team took a nosedive this season after all five women and one man quit. Only four members remain.

The defections have hurt the team in its two events this season. The team placed ninth out of 11 at the Colby College Winter Carnival and 10th out of 13 at the St. Lawrence Winter Carnival.

"The reasons the team members quit are varied and personal," Nordic coach Joe Connelly said.

Junior Josie Woodward quit due to problems within the program. She said that her decision was difficult but necessary.

"There is a high level of inequality between the girls and boys teams," Woodward said. "The boys are often favored at practices as well as during ski meets. They are the ones that the attention was focused toward from our coach, and they were the ones that always seemed to matter. The girl's team, on the other hand, was looked at as the ones who were incompetent and lazy. We were not treated as if we were an important part of the team."

Only one male skier has quit the team.

"It is sad for me to see girls come to St. Mike's to ski and then quit the team because it is nothing like a real Nordic ski team," Woodward said.

"Training was not a point of emphasis," Woodward said

"There was no structure to our training. We barely ever had workouts, and we never had much motivation from our coach to get in shape," Woodward said.

According to Connelly these statements are unfounded.

"I have never treated our Nordic team as a men's team and a women's team. It's a Nordic Team you score as a whole, you

workout together, travel together Connelly said.

As for the lack of emphasis on strength and conditioning, Connelly said that he issues a 12-month workout plan that he expects them to follow. He does not check every day to make sure that everyone is training.

"It is the skiers' responsibility to monitor and enhance their physical development," Connelly said.

Sophomore Ashley Wheeler's decision to leave was not based on team dynamics but personal reasons. She is running for Miss Vermont USA and volunteering with Rep. Bernie Sanders' Senate campaign. Skiing interfered with these endeavors, she said.

"Skiing is very time-consuming. We drive 45 minutes both ways to Smuggs, along with waxing skis. Other students do not seem to understand the time commitment," Wheeler said.

St. Michael's competes against the University of Vermont and Middlebury. UVM has won national championships and is the defending Eastern Intercollegiate Skiing Association champion. Skiing at St. Michael's is a DII sport.

Wheeler compares the level of competition to the St. Michael's basketball team competing against Division I teams like the University of Connecticut.

The point system in skiing is based on the overall performances of the men's and women's alpine and Nordic teams combined.

"We are not scoring any women's points. That means we're throwing away points every week and it probably cost the team a place in the standings at St. Lawrence," Connelly said.

NE-10 Basketball Standings: as of Feb. 5

Women's Basketball	GP	Con.	Overall	Men's Basketball	GP	Con.	Overall
Stonehill	22	15-2	20-2	Stonehill	17	13-4	17-4
Southern Connecticut	23	15-3	20-3	Bentley	17	13-4	16-6
AIC	22	13-4	18-4	St. Anselm	16	11-5	16-5
Pace	23	13-5	18-5	UMass-Lowell	18	12-6	16-7
St. Michael's	22	11-6	16-6	St. Rose	18	12-6	16-7
St. Rose	23	11-7	15-8	Franklin Pierce	16	10-6	13-8
Franklin Pierce	22	10-7	13-9	SNHU	18	11-7	15-8
Bentley	25	10-7	14-11	Bryant	17	10-7	15-7
Assumption	22	7-10	11-11	Merrimack	17	9-8	11-11
Le Moyne	22	7-10	11-11	Pace	18	8-10	11-12
UMass-Lowell	23	7-11	8-15	AIC	17	7-10	11-11
SNHU	23	4-14	6-17	Le Moyne	17	4-13	9-13
Merrimack	25	3-14	6-19	St. Michael's	17	4-13	7-15
St. Anselm	22	2-15	6-16	Assumption	17	3-14	5-17
Bryant	22	2-15	5-17	Southern Connecticut	18	2-16	5-17

Nothing like a little fun run to give you an edge

Imagine coming back from winter break. You're all excited to see your girlfriends and share stories of shopping sprees and tanning sessions.

Classes start and you get your life organized before lacrosse begins. You're excited for the season to start. You're ready to start throwing the ball, but you aren't ready to run for two weeks straight. You aren't ready to bring your stick to practice, put it on the ground and the next time you pick it up is to go home.

Haven's Hype



Haven Quinn

Welcome to the first two weeks of the women's lacrosse team.

Who is the whistle blower controlling this new fad called running? Sixth-year head coach and calmest woman ever, Carla Hesler.

In Hesler's bag of goodies for her players on return from winter break were some lovely sprinting sessions, (sorry coach I can't run, I ate a big Alliot lunch) endurance running (this is where I would of said I couldn't run because I slipped on all the ice outside on my way to class) and sequenced

running drills (if I made it this far, I would be shocked). "We have nine weeks until our first game," Hesler said. "We have run in the past but this kind of running is quality running."

Briskly walking my trash down the hall is what I call quality running.

"I run them efficiently," a calm Hesler said. "They run the way they will need to in games. They are labored, has been

"It's obvious she has been running so much her brain has been affected since she really wondered if running an hour and a half was a lot."

They should be running to exhaustion."

Yeah, sounds like a vacation in Tajikistan. Oh, wait, no one has cars there, everyone runs to work!

"I have higher expectations as time goes on," a still calm Hesler said. "We are going to bring the players out of their comfort zone and see how deep they can go. It's not punishment."

Sounds like an add for the Marines.

Some coaches run with their teams to pump up the volume or to get players excited.

Does Hesler run with the team? "Yes. Sometimes, to even out a drill or just to get warm," she said.

So what do the labored players think?

"We ran for an hour and a half straight," sophomore Abby Callahan said. "Is that a lot?"

It's obvious she has been running so much her brain

hour and a half is a lot.

"We used our sticks the other day to RUN with!" first-year Lauren Rizzotti said.

When asked for one word to describe coach, she responded, "I don't like this question. Umm, hmm, ahh, enthusiastic?"

What are you supposed to say about someone who calmly says, "OK, we're running for an hour." This is where the expression "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree" kicks in. Every player I talked to didn't seem to mind the running, even Rizzotti. All agreed it was hard but said they got used to it, and each player called coach enthusiastic. And each player agreed with coach making them run. Crazy if you ask me.

"Since we did all that running, when we practice with sticks it's like a break," junior Meg Lagasse said.

That's a borderline in need of therapy statement.

The players think it's a good idea. They all think coach is enthusiastic. No one quits. They all push each other. It's like they are their own unit of marines.

The captain is like an extension of the coach, so it's safe to say they have the same thinking about how the running was.

Senior captain Noel Smith on the team: "Our team is nuts in every way and I love it!"

Hesler said the team needed an edge this year and fitness is their edge.

My edge is making someone else take out the trash so I don't have to. And if they make me do it I just run away.

SPORTS

Ross is No. 1 in the NE-10



Photo by Jonah Kessel

Fans attend the men's basketball team as it hosts Bentley on Nov. 30 at the Ross Sports Center, the top ranked basketball facility in the conference. The Knights won 80-71.

By Ashley Hedlund
Staff Writer

The Vincent C. Ross Sports Center was chosen the No. 1 basketball facility in the NE-10 conference. The reviews were written by Stephen Zerdelian, a women's basketball expert and Chris Granozio, a sports writer/producer from New York City who has an expertise in NCAA DII Northeast Regional men's basketball.

The 15 schools in the NE-10 were reviewed on a 10-point scale in five categories. "The five categories used to critique the buildings were general accessibility/parking, sight-lines/seating, fan atmosphere, press amenities/working areas, and fan amenities," Granozio said. "Ross had no weaknesses, and that is why it scored such high ratings."

The \$2.5 million athletic facility was built in 1972 and fully funded by the Ross family. It was the first private gift of \$1 million or more St. Michael's College ever received. Since then, the 66,000-square-foot facility has remained in great condition. The building is well-equipped with convenient seating for basketball fans, and copper roofing. "The court is fan-friendly," said Tom

"The building was made for basketball. It is a great place to watch a game."

Tom O'Shea,
Basketball Coach

O'Shea, head coach of the men's basketball team. "It has great end-zone seats."

"The end-zone seats are perfect for firing up the team and taunting our opponents," sophomore men's basketball player Brian Monahan said.

One of the most unique aspects to the facility is its optimum press amenity. Its ideal location and convenient hookups surpassed any other school in the conference, Granozio said.

"The building was made for basketball," O'Shea said. "It is a great place to watch a game." The basketball teams spend between 15 to 20 hours a week practicing and competing in the Ross Sports Center.

Top 5 athletic centers

1. St. Michael's
2. Assumption
3. College of St. Rose
4. Pace
5. Bryant

"I think it's a better atmosphere than most schools it's more welcoming," said Chandler Smalling, senior member of the women's basketball team.

Before the Ross Center was built athletes were practicing in the Jeanmarie building, which housed the gym until 1973, when the Ross Center was completed, Associate Athletic Director Chris Kenny said.

Vincent C. Ross was a good friend of former President Rev. Danny Lyons, Class of 1926, who died in 1970. According to Kenny, Class of 1986, Lyons saw athletics as a positive and healthy outlet for students. He played a pivotal role in St. Michael's athletics and is the reason this wonderful facility exists today.

Knight WRITER

By: Andrea Lissor



'No comment'

Saturday, Jan. 28, was a relatively successful day for St. Michael's athletics. Our basketball teams split an NE-10 double-header with St. Anselm and our men's hockey team tied New England College, 2-2. And, thanks to global warming, that winter night was remarkably warm.

During the evening, sometime between the typical weekend routines of clustering in front of townhouses and 4 a.m. bedtimes, a fight broke out in the 200s.

The brawl was between St. Michael's students and a few out-of-town strangers. At this time, what is said to be about 100 people crowded around to watch the chaos. Unfortunately, no one saw anything.

Now, you may be questioning how this is possible. I challenge you to find me a scientific explanation of any kind that will determine how so many able-sighted individuals had no idea what was happening around them (with the exclusion of temporary alcohol-induced amnesia).

It is indeed a mystery to me, but when Defender reporters questioned anyone who was at the scene, the answers were always the same: "Umm, I don't know," or "I think I was probably sleeping," or my favorite, "It was some white guys, wearing polo shirts and baseball hats."

I don't think you need me to tell you how completely unhelpful a description like that is on this campus.

Finally, when people started to talk, we noticed a trend when several sources indicated that one of our sports teams might have been involved.

Naturally, being such great reporters, members of the Defender staff decided to try to talk to people on the implicated team. After all, it's only fair to let the

accused tell their side of the story. But apparently, there was no side to be told. Every team member spoken to refused to make an on-the-record statement in the team's defense.

Even after they were presented with the information against them and told that it would be printed in the paper, their response was still the same: "No comment."

Chalk it up to tremendous team unity, but I found this loyal silence to be both admirable and ridiculous. Didn't they know what people were going to say when they read the article? Yes, but the idea of selling out their teammates or associating themselves with this controversial event was worse for them.

I can't blame them. Who likes bad publicity? But when a simple "we didn't do it" has the potential to clear your name, why on earth wouldn't you take advantage of the opportunity?

I respect their brotherhood and the way they consider the consequences for everyone before a single player will attach his name to anything. After all, "there's no 'I' in team." That stupid cliché, though, does nothing to negate the three in the word "irritating," which this whole ordeal certainly was.

Ultimately, it's in the best interest of the team for someone to say something. Don't be Defender-phobic people, we're not going to hurt you. The paper is a great outlet for students to tell their side of the story.

It's always unfortunate when an article has biased representation. We journalists know there are two sides to every story, much like the two teams that play in every game.

As athletes, these guys should recognize better than anyone the importance of a good defense.

Senior | Hockey | Political Science | Cheshire, Conn.

Athlete of the Week

Alex Watts



High school: Berkshire School.

Started playing: Age 2.

Why SMC: Because I heard some kid named Tommy Pastore and some weird kid Kreg were going there.

Favorite memory: The BLC, a spring golf tournament that me and my friends play in.

Favorite food: Pizza.

Plans for after graduation: I want to go hang out in Mammoth Beach to change my whole perspective.

Why Chosen: Totaled two goals and two assists in a conference game against SNHU and led team to 7-3 victory. He is eighth in program history for points.

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SPORTS

Hegarty and Robertson for 1,000

Women's senior captain achieves career highlight in Stonehill game

By Andrea Lissor
Sports Editor

Basketball at St. Michael's is a full-time commitment. Countless hours of practice combined with long bus rides to away games leave team members with little free time. Senior Brigid Hegarty is not only co-captain of the women's team but also a double major in psychology and education and a student teacher.

"It's a lot," said Hegarty, a 5-foot-5-inch guard from North Andover, Mass.

"But it's worth it I really want to be a teacher someday."

Head Coach Jennifer Niebling acknowledges Hegarty's ambition

"That's the way Brigid is," Niebling said. "She just pushes herself and her teammates over the top. We love that part of her."



Brigid Hegarty and BJ Robertson reached a career high of 1,000 points within a week of each other.

As for her abilities on the court, Niebling describes Hegarty as a tremendous shooter with a range well beyond the three-point line. "The other team has to really come out to guard her," Niebling said. "That puts a lot of pressure on them and is a big help for our team."

Hegarty's favorite part about playing basketball is the team aspect.

"The girls have become like a family to me," Hegarty said. "As cheeseball as that all sounds."

Senior captain Holly Reeves refers to Hegarty as a great all-around player.

"Brigid's been a great teammate, friend and leader," Reeves said. "She does everything she can to help the team on and off the court. She has amazing intensity on defense and really knows how to get herself open."

Hegarty earned her 1,000th career point on Jan. 14 in the sec-

Robertson victory delayed 2 days

► With 6 minutes left in the game, and 3 points shy of his 1,000th career point, BJ Robertson was benched.

— Story, Page 18

ond half of a home game again Stonehill College.

She humbly explained her accomplishment:

"We ended up losing that game after a 21-point lead," Hegarty said. "I was pretty mad about that. I don't like to focus on my individual successes."

As for the team's success, Hegarty is confident. "I'll celebrate when we win the whole league," she said. The women's basketball team is fifth in the NE-10 conference, with an overall record of 16-6.

Reeves credits Hegarty with the team's accomplishments.

"She's definitely a main reason we've been so successful this year," Reeves said.

Seniors compete in last home meet

Seven seniors honored during Senior Day after the swimming and diving teams split with Norwich

By Haven Quinn
Managing Editor

Everyone's athletic career comes to an end at some point. For the seniors on the men's and women's swimming and diving teams, Tuesday, Jan. 31, marked the beginning of the end as they swam in their last home meet.

"One thing I remember," junior Meg Carroll said, "is during the last relay, (senior) Ellie Hedden looked at me and said, 'This is my last time racing in this pool,' and I realized I wouldn't be in any more relays with her, which was really sad because when I visited St. Michael's I stayed with Ellie, and I can't believe she is leaving now."

A talented senior class consisting of five women and three men was honored by eighth-year head coach Jim Donoghue before its final home meet against Norwich University.

The best part of coaching is watching the change," Donoghue said. "You get to see them when they first come in and watch them leave as adults in the end. It makes me very happy."

The men's team lost, 160-125, but the women's team cruised past the Cadets, 221-53.

First-year Stephanie Hammer broke her own 1,000-yard freestyle record, a school record she broke against Bryant on Jan. 28.

Senior co-captain Amy Powers won the 100-yard butterfly with a personal best of 1.07. Hedden won the 50-yard freestyle. Senior Thomas Wu won the 50-yard breast stroke.

Senior co-captain Chris Cochran said it was a good meet for the senior class and especially nice because it was one of the largest crowds he had seen since he has been here.

"There were a lot of students and faculty there," he said. "I know we have all worked hard for this moment and to finally get here was bittersweet because now we have to start moving on."

For seniors like Cochran, this race was a chance to sum up their four years at St. Michael's. From jumping into the pool as first-years to leaving it for the last time, it was a sad day.

"Afterwards it was kind of emotional," Cochran said. "Knowing I am graduating and that these last few weeks



Seniors (from left to right) Amy Powers, Ellie Hedden, Katie Gundling, Cam Tu Nguyen, Erin Crowley, Tom Wu and Chris Cochran all received flowers and gifts from their teammates before the meet.

are my last chance to leave my mark on the program."

Cochran said Donoghue is the kind of coach who every day has words of inspiration and that he is available to talk to about anything from school to swimming.

Donoghue spoke highly of each of his eight seniors, each bringing something different.

"Hedden and Cochran are both record-setters," he said. "Powers is a great leader, and Wu was a New England champion. I've known Erin Crowley since she was 9 years old, and it's been an absolute pleasure watching her grow. Katie Gundling is always looking for ways to help the team, and Cam Tu Nguyen has settled in nicely and will do anything to contribute."

Donoghue said he wished he could keep his seniors around a little longer.

"It's always bittersweet," he said. "You're psyched and happy they are doing well. But on the other hand, they have been doing this for six months, it's time to stop, but

if you stop, you know you're going to want to get in the water again."

For Hedden it was strange thinking this was her last meet. "It doesn't feel like there are only two weeks left," she said. "It wasn't as emotional as I thought. New England will be more emotional because then it will really sink in that it's over."

Junior Laura Mann said everyone swam really well in the final meet.

"The team has been working real hard towards our goals, and we are reaching nearly all of them," she said. "It was an emotional day for everyone because of the seniors. Some have been swimming since they were 8, and knowing their career is coming to an end is sad."

"All eight of them are phenomenal," Donoghue said. "They have been a great-group to coach, they have been great teammates, but they are staying focused. They have championships coming up."